

Sana'a vows to seek Yemeni unity

SANA'A (R) — North Yemeni Prime Minister Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani said Tuesday his country would work for a merger with South Yemen, whose president was ousted in fighting between rival factions in Aden last month. "We will do all we can to bring nearer the day (of unity) with our southern part... through brotherly dialogue and by taking democratic steps," Mr. Abdul Ghani told police cadets. This was North Yemen's first official comment on relations between the two Red Sea states since the ousting of South Yemeni President Ali Nasser Mohammad. South Yemen's new president, Haider Abu Bakar Al Attas, has pledged to continue good relations between the two Yemenis, but acknowledged that last month's fighting had created "a cloud in relations between the two." The two countries, which have fought border skirmishes in the past, began merger talks in 1981.

Jordan Times

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جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية الراية

'King reveals new facts

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday unveiled new facts on his discussions with the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and especially the leadership's stance on U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The new information, which will be published in Saturday's issue of the Kuwaiti daily Al Siyassah, was given to Ahmad Al Jaralla, the paper's chief editor during an audience with the King on Tuesday. Mr. Jaralla had a lengthy talk with the King which covered Jordan's relations with the PLO after King Hussein's decision to terminate political coordination with the political leadership of the organisation. The audience was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem.

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Ibrahimi meets Bahraini counterpart

BAHRAIN (R) — Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmad Taleb Ibrahimi held talks on the Gulf war here on Tuesday with his Bahraini counterpart Sheikh Mohammad Ibn Mubarak Al Khalifa. Mr. Ibrahimi, on a tour of Arab Gulf countries, had similar talks in Kuwait on Monday and was quoted by Kuwait's daily Al Rai Al Aam on the need to end the war. "The great losers in the war are Iran, Iraq and the Arab World," he said. "The only one to benefit is Israel." Mr. Ibrahimi's next stop will be Qatar.

Satellite expected to crash tomorrow

BONN (R) — A Soviet satellite weighing at least 10 tonnes is slipping out of orbit and major parts of it are expected to crash to earth on Thursday, West German experts said Tuesday. "As far as we are able to predict now, Cosmos 1714 will come down on Thursday at 0940 GMT, but the error margin is still 12 hours both ways," Ewald Andrews, in charge of the interior ministry's disaster relief unit, told Reuters. Research Ministry officials said it was impossible to predict the location of the expected impact.

Duvalier taken to court by hotelier

TALLOIRES (AP) — The owner of a luxury hotel in this Alpine resort asked a court Tuesday to order the expulsion of former Haitian dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier from his establishment. Jean Tiffesat said, "I cannot work and I would like Mr. Duvalier to leave so I can welcome my guests in the normal way, many of whom have long standing reservations. This is harming our reputation." Mr. Tiffesat said Mr. Duvalier "has wanted to leave my establishment ever since his arrival but he is not the one who decides." He said the court postponed a hearing on his request until either Friday or March 5.

UNHCR issues new appeal for Africa

GENEVA (AP) — The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) launched an appeal on Tuesday for \$69.5 million in emergency aid for some one million refugees in three African countries. High Commissioner Jean-Pierre Hocke, in a letter to prospective donors, said refugees "in Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan still need help to be sustained at a reasonable level of care and maintenance." He said total needs for the commission's emergency programme were estimated at \$80.7 million in 1986 and that UNHCR had already received \$11.2 million worth of donations this year.

Lagos plotters sentenced to death

LAGOS (R) — A military tribunal sentenced 13 officers to death by firing squad for their part in a coup plot uncovered last December, the tribunal chairman said Tuesday. General Charles Ndiomu said they included General Mammah Vatsa, a former minister and member of the armed forces ruling council. Two officers were jailed for life, one was dismissed from the army and eight were cleared by the tribunal.

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Marcos is toppled, Aquino takes power

Ousted ruler takes refuge at U.S. base awaiting exile

Combined agency dispatches

MANILA — After 20 years of autocratic rule Ferdinand Marcos abandoned the presidency of the Philippines on Monday and flew by helicopter to a United States military base.

Ailing, under mounting domestic and diplomatic pressure and deserted by his military leaders and political cronies, he at last threw in the towel, leaving his country's destiny in the hands of a political tyro, Corazon Aquino. U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz announced the end of the Marcos era at a news conference in Washington at which he pledged political and economic support for the Aquino government. Mrs. Corazon is the widow of opposition leader Benigno Aquino whose 1983 murder triggered the Marcos regime.

An army colonel who passed on

to General Fidel Ramos, newly named commander of the armed forces by Mrs. Aquino, the Renter report of Mr. Shultz's announcement said the general would go to Malacanang to implement the people's will and restore order.

The almost bloodless revolution that overthrew Mr. Marcos and his ambitious ex-beauty queen wife Imelda — known to Filipinos as the "Iron Butterfly" — stemmed from the Feb. 7 presidential elections called by Mr. Marcos under U.S. pressure.

The opposition, supported by foreign observer groups, accused the president of winning the election by fraud. U.S. President Ronald Reagan distanced himself from Mr. Marcos. Gen. Ramos and Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, long a close associate of the president, led a military revolt at the weekend.

On Monday, within hours of rival ceremonies at which both Mr. Marcos and Mrs. Aquino were sworn in as president, the



Corazon Aquino

end came.

Thirteen thousand kilometres away in the White House, President Reagan picked up a telephone to offer his own congratulations to Mrs. Aquino, a wife and mother pitchforked by her husband's murder into the grim realities of a political system its critics say is dominated by "guns, goons and gold."

An Aquino spokesman declined to reveal what Mr. Reagan had said. This is the second time in less than three weeks that his government has helped ease out an autocratic head of state whose unpopularity had become an embarrassment to Washington. Jean-Claude Duvalier was flown

into exile from Haiti by a U.S. air force plane on Feb. 7, polling day in the Philippines.

First official word of Mr. Marcos' resignation came in Washington, where Mr. Shultz said the toppled Philippine leader would be "welcome to come to the United States." But there was no immediate report on his final destination.

Mr. Shultz also said the United States had officially recognised the new government of Mrs. Aquino.

Announcers on the new government's television station wept openly in giving the news of Mr. Marcos' departure.

As the report aired in the Philippines, a crowd broke into Mr. Marcos' palace and began looting. Reporters said they saw one person lying dead in the downstairs lobby of the palace's administration building. At least 20,000 people rampaged through the luxurious compound of buildings from which Mr. Marcos had ruled for 20 years, they said.

Just before the helicopters carrying the Marcos family took off, about 100 people broke down wooden barricades several hundred metres away from the palace and rushed toward Marcos loyalists who hurled stones as they retreated into the palace grounds.

(Continued on page 3)

U.S. in 'close contact' with Jordan, Israel

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb said on Monday that the Reagan administration was keeping close contacts with Israel and Jordan on efforts for Middle East peace.

In response to questions, Kalb confirmed that Israel's ambassador to the United States, Meir Rosenfeld, met last week at the State Department with Michael Armacost, the under-secretary for political affairs, and Richard Murphy, assistant secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs.

"I don't have a readout," Kalb said, "insofar as agenda or specifics of discussion." In a reiteration of long-standing policy, he said, "there is no indication, as usual, of get involved in the substance of diplomatic discussions."

"However, let me emphasize that throughout the past few months of intensive discussions on the peace process, we have stayed in very close contact with senior levels of the government of Israel as well as with Jordan," the spokesman declared. "And that's where I'll have to leave it."

In Cairo, a senior aide to President Hosni Mubarak said on Tuesday that healing the rift between Jordan and the PLO could prove to be a long process.

Nevertheless, Osama Al Baz said Egypt will continue trying to bring the two parties back together in the search for peace.

Dr. Baz, Mr. Mubarak's chief political adviser, spoke with reporters after Mr. Mubarak met with visiting Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu.

Last Wednesday, His Majesty King Hussein announced Jordan was terminating political coordination with the PLO leadership towards settling the Palestinian problem.

"No doubt we are at an impasse," Dr. Baz said. "It depends on the readiness of the concerned parties to become close again, and overcoming this obstacle... may take some time."



His Majesty King Hussein addresses a large gathering of citizens from the East and West Banks who visited the Royal Court on Tuesday to voice support for his leadership and policy (Petra photo)

King pledges to preserve Jordanian-Palestinian unity

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein said on Tuesday Jordan's differences with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) resulted from a retreat on the part of the PLO leadership from declared stands and commitments and promises.

The King said the offered opportunities for peace could not present themselves again and the only beneficiary from the loss of such opportunities is the Israeli enemy which continues to carry out aggressive plans at the expense of the Palestinians, the Jordanians and the rest of the Arab Nation.

The King was addressing delegations representing the government of Ma'an, the Jordanian badia region, Palestinian refugees and the city of Nablus on the occupied Arab territories who converged at the Royal Court to demonstrate support for the King. The King said that since the Palestine problem is of concern for all the Palestinians and Jordanians and all Arabs he decided to expose all the facts in total frankness because he believed that the people can, and will put things right again.

"What I hope to see is people raising the Palestinian standard and marching along our side, persons who truly represent the Palestinian people and can help fulfill this people's aspirations and hopes because they can feel their sufferings," King Hussein said.

He said: "We would like to see representatives of the Palestinian

people totally committed to serve the Arab cause so that we can work together backed by the whole Arab Nation for saving the Arab people from Israeli occupation and freeing our holy places."

"The right to self-determination is a sacred right for which the Great Arab Revolt was carried out and therefore we should not allow our adversaries to have a say in our sovereignty and our land," King Hussein added.

He said: "Our enemy is intent on a course designed to make us lose the chance of establishing a just and durable and comprehensive peace and we must not allow this enemy to achieve his objectives."

Terminating political coordination with the PLO leadership is not the end of the road and the Jordanians and Palestinians are determined to pursue all efforts and to discuss everything in full about our joint destiny and the destiny of the coming generations so that we can have a very strong stand in the face of challenges," he said.

The King said that the Arab people of the occupied territories have suffered a great deal "and we will never forget them."

Jordan, he added, will remain a shield for the Arab Nation — "a shield that should remain solid" and never allow the danger to reach the heart of the nation." He said Nablus, Hebron, Jer-

usalem, Gaza and every city and village in the occupied territories "are dear and will remain dear to all of us." He said: "The danger we confront continues to increase in proportion and the capabilities of our enemies are being boosted every day and we do realise the enemy's ambitions and objectives and for this reason I have to place the facts before the people and urge them to remain vigilant and united."

He said he could feel that the Jordanians and the Palestinians wish to remain united in one family and that he will do everything in his power to maintain and bolster this cohesion and this unity.

King Hussein later met with delegations representing the government of Madaba and the suburbs of Amman who called at the Royal Court to express their backing and support for the monarch and for his leadership and policies.

In a speech addressing the delegations, he said he appreciated their support and was proud of their affection and cohesion and unity. The King said that his open and frank speech to the Palestinian and Jordanian people was necessitated by the new realities and was in response to his feelings of duty and responsibility towards the people on both banks of Jordan at this critical stage. "The Palestinian and Jordanian peoples

(Continued on page 3)

Israel must keep doors open for talks — Peres

PARIS (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres was quoted on Tuesday in Le Monde as saying Israel must "keep the doors open" to a dialogue with West Bank Palestinians and Jordan after the lapse of joint moves by Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Israel "has to see if the Palestinians in the (occupied) territories are ready to follow Jordan and find a formula that will allow in one way or another the opening of negotiations," Peres told the French daily.

Peres was quoted as saying PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, who held talks over a year with Jordan aimed at moving toward peace talks with Israel "had demonstrated once again that he was a man with whom one could not negotiate."

"A year has been lost to learn once and for all that the PLO is an organisation which devotes all its energies to surviving and is incapable of making the smallest decision. Unfortunately time is running out and the PLO is heading towards another tragedy. It is setting back the cause of the Palestinian people," Peres told Le Monde.

He was quoted as saying it would take time for West Bank Palestinians to realise that the PLO offered no solution for their future.

He said Israel had to "liberalise" its policies in the occupied West Bank and acknowledged there was a contradiction between liberalisation and occupation.

U.S. under attack at African conference

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Ethiopia made a scathing attack on Tuesday on the United States for deciding to arm South African-backed rebels in Angola and for refusing to support economic sanctions against South Africa.

In a message to Organisation of African Unity (OAU) foreign ministers, head of state Mengistu Haile Mariam said the white-dominated Pretoria government "had been able to defy the will of the international community because of the all-round support they are receiving from their imperialist backers."

"It is these same quarters who have been in the forefront frustrating attempts to impose comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against the South African regime," he added.

The OAU ministers began a week-long meeting Tuesday. Mr. Mengistu's speech was read on his behalf by Foreign Minister Goshu Wolde.

The Ethiopian leader is currently visiting Moscow for the 27th Soviet Communist Party congress (See page 8).

Mr. Mengistu noted that in November the United States and Britain vetoed a U.N. resolution calling for the imposition of selective sanctions against South Africa.

Kuwait on alert, marks 25 years of independence

KUWAIT (R) — The Gulf state of Kuwait, on military alert with the Iran-Iraq war raging close to its border, Tuesday marked 25 years of independence with a call for unity.

Kuwait's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Abdullah Al Sabah said in a National Day message that unity and cooperation would overcome any crisis.

"During its history, Kuwait has countered fateful challenges and perils... but emerged strong and free," said the message from Sheikh Sabah, convalescing abroad after gall bladder surgery in London last December.

Kuwait, which gained independence from Britain in 1961, was shaken last May by an assassination plot against its Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah. This month it went on military alert when Iran sent troops into southern Iraq and pushed within a few kilometres of Kuwait. Tehran then denounced Kuwait, saying it was hurting Iraq by producing too much oil and forcing prices down.

A tight security cordon was clamped on Kuwait City ahead of the celebrations, with police mounting roadblocks nightly.

Little public fanfare marked National Day. A month-long silver jubilee festival culminated Monday night in shows by folk troupes and parades by military bands and armed forces.

The authorities Monday released 530 prisoners and cut the sentences of 714 others under an anniversary amnesty.

The Emir echoed the unity theme, saying in a message he hoped Kuwait would be protected "from any harm under the umbrella of national unity and family bonds."

The Kuwaiti press Tuesday hailed the emirate's progress as an independent state, especially its democratic achievements.

It has the only elected parliament in the Arabian peninsula. It was suspended by the former Emir in 1976 on grounds that it included obstructing the legislative process but revived in 1981 by the current Emir.

"A freely-elected legislature, an independent judiciary, a free press — these are the attributes of an independent, honourable and forward-looking country. And these we have," the Kuwait Times said in an editorial.

Kuwait has been transformed by oil from a pearl-producing desert trading post and show-building port to a modern welfare city-state with one of the world's highest incomes per capita.

The daily Al Qabas said: "Whenever the knell of danger sounded, the elements of stability, democracy, freedom and national unity prevailed as weapons to confront the menace and ensure its retreat."

In what appeared to be a security precaution, the national Kuwait Airways cancelled special flights to show off the city's dazzling display of festival night-lights.

It gave no explanation for the move but said it would refund money to people who had bought tickets.

National Day marked the start of a three-day holiday, to be devoted largely to family gatherings.

He said the money would be used to buy screening equipment like X-rays for luggage and walk-through gates, communication equipment for security men, a closed-circuit television network for surveillance, fire-fighting equipment and training of personnel.

He said the grant would not cover a 24-kilometre perimeter fence around the airport which the government will build.

"The specifications of the system are the same as those for U.S. airports," the embassy source said.

The airport security official said at least 80 cameras would be placed along the perimeter fence and inside airport halls. He also said there would be new electronic equipment to check passengers and their luggage for possible weapons or explosives.

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Bad weather curbs Iraqi Air Force

BAHRAIN (R) — Fighting in the Fao peninsula of southern Iraq appeared almost static, with neither side claiming major breakthroughs over the past 24 hours and bad weather curbing the Iraqi Air Force.

An Iraqi war communiqué Monday night said Baghdad's soldiers "stormed Iranian positions," annihilating large numbers of troops and advanced 2.5 kilometres, but gave no details.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) had reported earlier that the central column of Iraq's three-pronged counter-attack to retake the southern tip of the peninsula was advancing "inch-by-inch."

The other two columns spent Monday "fortifying their positions and repelling Iranian attempts to

regain positions lost earlier," the official communiqué said.

Iran said brigades of war volunteers had gone to reinforce the front from 25 cities, towns and villages.

Iraq said its planes and helicopters flew 390 sorties Monday, losing one plane. Aerial activity was less intense than on previous days, on which up to 800 missions have been flown, because of the weather, the communiqué said.

INA quoted the commander of the central column as saying "war operations to liberate the land will be ended soon."

Iraq also said Monday its navy attacked two ships near Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal on Sunday evening.

This would mark a change of tactics by the Iraqi forces, which have previously used missile-firing fighter-bombers for attacks on Gulf shipping.

Analysts said it could be related to an Iranian report last week that it had captured a radar post in the Fao peninsula which Iraq had used to steer planes to the attack.

Tehran said it shot down an Iraqi helicopter which attacked a Cyprus-registered supertanker near Kharg Monday. The use of a helicopter in this role was also thought to be a first for Iraq, analysts said.

Independent shipping sources were unable to confirm the naval attacks. Iran said the 240,000-ton tanker hit by the helicopter sustained minor damage. Its name was not reported.

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Mr. Troeller said many of the refugees had walked for more than a week, over distances exceeding 100 kilometres, to reach Somalia.

The Somali Refugee Commission said last week that cholera had struck the Beledweyne, Jalaal and Luq camps in southern Somalia, as well as Tug-Wajale.

Last March and April, a cholera outbreak in northern Somalia killed about 2,000 people, about half of them refugees.

The three southern camps hit by the new outbreak accommodate some of the estimated 700,000 refugees who came from Ethiopia in the late 1970s, following Somalia's failed attempt to capture the disputed Ogaden region of south eastern Ethiopia.

Another 110,000 Ethiopian refugees arrived in Somalia between early 1984 and early 1985. Thus the latest influx means there are an estimated 837,000 refugees

He said UNHCR wanted to move the new arrivals to a larger, better-equipped camp that is being completed near the port city of Berbera. However, he said the cholera outbreak had prompted Somali authorities to discourage transfers of refugees for fear they might spread the disease.

Since the outbreak began earlier this month, Mr. Troeller said, there have been 17 confirmed cholera deaths and hundreds of suspected cases at refugee camps across the country, including 150 suspected cases at Tug-Wajale.

Somalia's National Refugee Commission has suggested a higher death toll. A statement issued Friday gave no precise figures but said 10 people were dying of cholera daily.

Mr. Troeller said virtually all of the new arrivals living at Tug-Wajale left Ethiopia for political reasons, principally because of opposition to the Marxist government's villagisation programme.

Under that programme, people are being moved from scattered family farms and hamlets to new

or existing villages. The government says the programme allows for better security and public services, but some refugees claim their family-owned land is being seized.

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Cholera disrupts handling of Ethiopian refugees

NAIROBI, Kenya (Agencies) — A widespread cholera outbreak has disrupted plans for accommodating thousands of political refugees arriving in Somalia from Ethiopia, a United Nations refugee official said Tuesday.

Gary Troeller, deputy representative of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees in Somalia, said about 27,000 Ethiopian refugees had entered northern Somalia since early December, with more arriving at a rate of 600 per day.

They are living at Tug-Wajale, a camp near the Ethiopian border that was designed as a temporary reception centre suited for 5,000 people, Mr. Troeller said. He said the rainy season, scheduled to begin within a few weeks, could turn Tug-Wajale into a marsh and greatly increase the cholera threat.

"We are reacting to a situation which could become critical," said Mr. Troeller, an American, at a briefing for Nairobi-based reporters. "Once the rains come, cholera is extremely difficult to contain."

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Another 110,000 Ethiopian refugees arrived in Somalia between early 1984 and early 1985. Thus the latest influx means there are an estimated 837,000 refugees

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Since the outbreak began earlier this month, Mr. Troeller said, there have been 17 confirmed cholera deaths and hundreds of suspected cases at refugee camps across the country, including 150 suspected cases at Tug-Wajale.

Somalia's National Refugee Commission has suggested a higher death toll. A statement issued Friday gave no precise figures but said 10 people were dying of cholera daily.

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Under that programme, people are being moved from scattered family farms and hamlets to new

or existing villages. The government says the programme allows for better security and public services, but some refugees claim their family-owned land is being seized.

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U.S. to finance Cairo airport security system

CAIRO (AP) — A \$10 million grant from the United States will help finance a "security enhancement" programme for Cairo International Airport that will include a perimeter fence and closed-circuit television, a U.S. embassy source said Tuesday.

A senior airport security official said the new system was being installed "because of the increase of terrorist operations in airports all over the world."

Both informants spoke on condition of anonymity.

The embassy source said the money for the system will come from the commodity import portion of this year's grant of \$800 million for economic aid.

He said the money would be used to buy screening equipment like X-rays for luggage and walk-through gates, communication equipment for security men, a closed-circuit television network for surveillance, fire-fighting equipment and training of personnel.

He said the grant would not cover a 24-kilometre perimeter fence around the airport which the government will build.

"The specifications of the system are the same as those for U.S. airports," the embassy source said.

The airport security official said at least 80 cameras would be placed along the perimeter fence and inside airport halls. He also said there would be new electronic equipment to check passengers and their luggage for possible weapons or explosives.

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Umm Qais residents to receive compensation for property loss

IRBID (Petra) — The inhabitants of Umm Qais in Irbid Governorate will be offered new housing units or cash compensation for their property appropriated by the authorities for archaeological excavations, according to an announcement made on Monday.

A total of 385 people affected by the process will benefit from 150 housing units erected near the town by the Housing Corporation or will be compensated in cash.

The announcement was made following a meeting chaired by Irbid Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin and attended by representatives of Irbid Municipality, the director of the Housing Corporation, Mr. Shafiq Al Zawadeh, and other concerned officials. After the meeting, Mr. Amin visited the town of Umm Qais and met with the beneficiaries with whom he discussed the distribution of units and cash compensation.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ministry plans to asphalt roads

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Public Works plans to embark on a project for converting all roads in the Kingdom with a new coat of asphalt. Work on the JD 2.5 million project, expected to start by mid April, will be completed during the coming summer, according to Minister of Public Works Mahmoud Al Hawamdeh. He said that the ministry has already started announcing tenders for the project.

ACC to grant loans worth JD 413,260

AMMAN (Petra) — The Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) has decided to grant loans totalling JD 413,260 to Jordanian farmers for agricultural projects. The announcement was made following an ACC board meeting and it said that 76 projects will be carried out for the improvement of irrigation networks, planting trees and vegetables and raising livestock as well as purchasing farm equipment. ACC has granted loans totalling JD 813,510 for 182 projects since the start of 1986, the announcement said.

Irbid organises dentistry exhibition

IRBID (Petra) — An exhibition on dentistry and protection against dental diseases will be held in Irbid on March 9 to mark Arab Dentistry Day, according to a spokesman for a committee organising the event. He said that the exhibition is designed to spread awareness among the public on ways of protecting teeth against damage from various diseases. The exhibition will be accompanied by lectures, seminars and free dental treatment for school children.

Jordan entries top international contest

AMMAN (J.T.) — The "Great Trill Competition" has drawn to a close and over 12,000 entry forms were received in Bahrain where the judging will take place, according to a press release circulated in Amman by the organisers. The total number of entries received from Jordan up to the official closing date of Dec. 31, 1985 was 3,574. It is believed that Jordan with this figure has topped the list with the largest number of entries from one country, the release said. Judging has already started with the basic accounting of entries per country to be followed by entries per school within each country, thus allowing the organisers to determine the schools with the highest number of entries. Under the original rules, prizes are offered to winning children with correct answers to creatively written riddles as well as to top schools with the highest number of entries.

Australian envoy visits projects in Irbid

IRBID (Petra) — Australian Ambassador to Jordan Terry Goggin visited Irbid Governorate Tuesday and discussed with local officials a number of projects that are being implemented with help from the Australian government. Mr. Goggin toured a farm machinery station run by a cooperative society and was briefed on the station's programmes and activities in the governorate.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday visits the flying eye hospital, Orbis, at Marqa Airport (Petra photo).

JPMC, Thai company sign phosphate purchase deal

AMMAN (Petra) — Thailand is to purchase 650,000 tonnes of Jordanian phosphates annually under an agreement signed between the Thai Fertiliser Corporation and the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC). This was announced in Amman Tuesday by Mr. Ali Khreis, JPMC chairman of the board of directors, upon his return from a three-day visit to Thailand.

Mr. Khreis said that he held talks with Thai officials that led to the signing of the agreement which also stipulates that JPMC acquires 10 per cent of the Thai Company's capital, estimated at \$90 million. He said the 650,000 tonnes of phosphates to be exported to Thailand form nearly 80 per cent of the Thai company's requirement of phosphate for its fertiliser industry.

Meanwhile, Minister of Industry and Trade Rajai Muasher chaired a meeting to discuss the start of production at the Shidieh mines near Tafleh in southern Jordan. According to Mr. Sameh Madani, the director of the phosphates project, the meeting of the project's executive committee discussed the progress of work at the project, including production and transportation of phosphates to Agaba and also an executive programme for starting production by the end of 1986.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khateeb, Minister of Planning Abdullah Naour as well as Natural Resources Authority Director Yusuf Al Nimri, Agaba Region Authority Director Mohammad Sa'ad Abu Nawar, Director General of the JPMC Wasef Azar and director general of the Jordan Railway Corporation Mardi Qatameen.

Saqqaq to attend Arab League economic council in Tunis

AMMAN (Petra) — The United States-Israeli free trade zone and economic development in the Arab World will be among the main topics to be discussed by the Arab League Economic and Social Council which will open its meetings in Tunis on Wednesday. Under Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade Mohammad Al Saqqaq announced here Tuesday.

Mr. Saqqaq was speaking shortly before departing for the Tunis meeting which is expected to last two days. He said that on the council's agenda there will be a plan for a comprehensive Arab economic strategy and economic cooperation between the Arab countries and the rest of the world. Also to be discussed, he said, is an Arab League memorandum about foreign companies planning to conclude contracts with Arab companies in the Israeli-held Arab territory.

Canadian defence college team concludes visit to Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the National Defence College in Canada left Amman Tuesday at the end of a six-day visit to Jordan during which they met with senior officials and toured archaeological sites and military positions in the country.

The delegation, which arrived here Thursday, included members of the college's staff and students. The delegation met with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Armed Forces Commander in Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Hazem Nuseibeh who briefed them on the latest developments in the Palestine problem and Israel's arbitrary measures directed against the Palestinian people.

The delegation were seen off at the airport by senior army officers. Canadian Ambassador in Amman Gary Harman and the Canadian military attaché in Amman.

Foundation to present awards for research on March 26

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation (AHSF) announced Tuesday that it will distribute its 1985 awards for distinguished scientific works by young Arab scientists on March 26. It had earlier been announced that the presentation will be made on March 16.

Foundation Director Asad Abdul Rahman, who made the announcement, said that the AHSF chairman of the board of directors will present the awards to the nine winners at a special ceremony to be held at the foundation's headquarters in Amman. The awards, each worth JD 3,000 will be presented to those whose works were selected as the most prominent among 75 candidates who were nominated. Dr. Abdul Rahman said.

Dr. Abdul Rahman last week announced the names of the winners at a press conference and said that for the first time since its establishment in 1980, the foundation is presenting five awards, the majority, to Jordanian scientists. The other winners, he said, were two researchers from Lebanon, one from Egypt and one from Iraq.

Queen Noor visits flying eye hospital

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday visited Project Orbis, the U.S.-based "flying eye hospital" aboard a DC8 airliner which is currently on a three-week programme to exchange medical skills and to offer free-eye treatment to Jordanians.

The Queen, who made her first public appearance after she gave birth to Her Royal Highness Princess Raiyah, born on Feb. 9, inspected the project and was briefed on the activities of its various surgical, audio-visual and examination services.

Upon her arrival, Queen Noor was met by Minister of Health Zaid Hamzah, Mrs. Zaid Al Rifai, Major General Dajoud Hanania, director general of the Royal Medical Services, and a number of senior officials from the Civil Aviation Authority, Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, and the Royal Air Force.

Dr. Hanania told the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, that Orbis, which arrived here on Feb. 15, has carried out different ophthalmological operations such as cornea implants, cornea grafts, and cataract operations. The project first visited Jordan in 1983 upon an invitation by Queen Noor and its current visit has been arranged by the Royal Medical Services in cooperation with the Ministry of Health.

Orbis, a private, non-profit organisation was launched in 1982. Since its inception it has circled the globe twice carrying out 52 missions in 38 countries.

Jordanian ophthalmologists are operating side-by-side with Orbis doctors as well as exchanging hands-on surgical techniques during operations on local patients. The local eye-patients have been pre-selected from the King Hussein Medical Centre (KHMC), the government run Al Bashir Hospital and the University of Jordan Hospital.

Eye patients are receiving free medical treatment on board the plane, but special cases, which need operations to be carried out local hospitals have to pay for the hospital's expenses but not for the cost of the operation.

In a report carried by the daily "Arab" newspaper Al Ra'i, Dr. Ghazi Sharaiha, an ophthalmologist from Al Bashir Hospital, described one of the eye

operations performed on a sixty-year old man who suffered cornea diseases and was almost blind. The man, who was referred by Al Bashir Hospital, underwent three operations for cataracts, cornea transplantation and corneal grafts. Dr. Sharaiha also said that local doctors were closely watching all operations through Orbis's audio-visual system which links the operating theatre with the recovery room and the lecture room aboard the plane.

Dr. Ibrahim Ayesh, head of the ophthalmological department at the KHMC, told Al Ra'i that the most valuable experience local doctors are gaining from Orbis is that the project carries out cornea transplantations. "The team have brought with them 14 corneas. Until now, seven cornea transplants have been carried out successfully and the rest of operations will be carried out in the course of this week," Dr. Ayesh told the newspaper. Dr. Ayesh called on all Jordanians to donate their corneas after their death saying that the holy religions have approved such donations. "Cornea donors will assist us and their brethren in regaining the sight of so many eye patients," he added.

Dr. Gareth Taylor, one of Orbis' ophthalmologists, who also participated in the operation on the sixty-year-old man, paid tribute to the medical standard of Jordanian doctors in general and ophthalmologists in particular. "We have benefited a lot from the experience of the local eye surgeons, who participated along with us in the eye operations," Dr. Taylor said. He added that he was surprised by the in-depth questions which Jordanian doctors asked during the lectures which preceded any operation. "I can say that Jordanian ophthalmologists have up-to-date information in ophthalmology and that Orbis will carry the Jordanian experience to all future international missions," he added.

Dr. Taylor said he was surprised that more Jordanians do not donate their corneas. "People should think of the humanitarian aspects of cornea donation which helps people to regain their sight," Dr. Taylor added.

Dr. Ayesh said he expects Orbis to carry out a total of 70 operations before it leaves on March 8 for Alexandria in Egypt. "Until now, Orbis has examined 400 patients and carried out 30 eye surgeries," Dr. Ayesh said Monday. After Orbis' three-week mission in Alexandria, it will leave to Malta on a similar programme, from where it will return to the U.S.

The aircraft has been divided into eight compartments according to the various stages of eye surgery procedures. The examination room, an 18-seat class room, an audio-visual control room, the scrubbing-up area, the main operation theatre, the sterilisation area, the instrument and supplies room, a recovery compartment, which is also used for receiving patients and toilets.



An operation in progress aboard Orbis (Photo Youssef Al 'Allan).

King pledges to preserve unity

(Continued from page 1)

together have a joint responsibility to save their kinsmen and their brothers from occupation and to free their holy places and land," the King said. He said "national unity is a weapon that should be used and should project the Jordanian and Palestinian identities within the united family in the face of all dangers and challenges."

"What we seek is a balanced and lasting relationship between the Palestinians and Jordanians that can serve as a good example for all other Arab people," he said.

Several speakers representing the Ma'an and Nablus governorates made speeches before the King paying tribute to his endeavours and his efforts to serve the Palestine cause.

They also renewed their allegiance to the Hashemite throne and stressed the need for maintaining the unity between the Palestinian and Jordanian people.

The Royal Court also said on Tuesday that it received further cables of support for the King from various sectors and organisations and Palestinian refugee camps and different governorates.

Students explore concept, possibilities of urban renewal

By Josephine Zamaniri
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The concept urban renewal is rarely mentioned in Amman and outward development of the city is seen as the answer to both commercial and residential "spill-over". Although the inner urban zones of the city, including the business centre downtown, have been bypassed to some extent in favour of newly developed areas, the commercial heart of Amman remains firmly in King Faisal Street and most Ammanis remain in the old residential quarters adjoining downtown.

At present, Jordanian architects have consistently favoured new development rather than renovation of existing buildings. However, a new generation of young architects may well challenge this prevailing philosophy. The final year architecture students at the University of Jordan have recently completed a design project which not only teaches them how to analyse the existing physical and built-up environment, but has fostered some vivid ideas and views on refurbishment and renewal of several of Amman's most exciting yet dilapidated inner urban areas.

The quarters involved in the study, explains Dr. Namir Heikal, who teaches the course, include sections of Jabal Lweibdeh-Sa'adeh Street, lined with fine old stone dwellings; the Montazah or garden opposite the National Art Gallery; Shari'a Street — the major commercial street in the Lweibdeh area; and the Kalha steps, a winding old stairway which connects Jabal Lweibdeh to Downtown. The focal point of the business centre, the Hussein mosque and the nearby Souk el Suka as well as the Arab Bank sector on King Faisal Street are also part of the project. One of the old quarters of the First Circle was also included in the study, adds Dr. Heikal.

Urban fabric
At first the project was a little

confusing for the students," he continues. "However, once they understood the role of the urban setting and were able to make a visual analysis of these older quarters, they began to appreciate the areas," he adds. Student improvements include residential upgrading and quality of life improvements with areas for social activities. An important facet of the project, he stresses was to encourage the students to closely understand the urban fabric — the topography, the rhythm of buildings, how they inter-relate with the contours of the physical landscape and the cultural and historical significance of any area.

Dr. Heikal explains "before commencing the project considerable research was carried out on urban projects in other Arab cities — Damascus, Cairo, Baghdad, and so on, to enable the students to relate urban design in Jordan to similar projects elsewhere in the Arab World."

Dr. Taleb Rafai, also teaching architecture at the university, believes the course "will raise the students' understanding by the students of the urban setting." He points out the course is important as urban design links architecture with town planning.

Different problems

Dr. Rafai does not believe that urban renewal in the European or American sense will occur in Amman as the "sets of problems are quite different." He adds, "what we need is some kind of re-emphasis on the city centre as opposed to boundless extension." He also maintains "removing the basic functions from downtown will not help the city of Amman."

In the classically developed circular city, the reasons for inner urban renewal are complex but some what standard according to sociologists. The band initially renewed is not the city centre but the area surrounding it, where generally industry was first established. Frequently expansion for established factories is blocked

by either prohibitive municipal by-laws or high land costs and industrialists are forced to move their premises to the outer city limits. Factory workers establish their residence closer to their new place of work, on the city edges. The new cleaner environment, plus the low cost of housing in the inner suburbs encourages a new generation of buyers tired of endless commuting and appreciative of the colourful culture created by the previous working class tenants, who were frequently migrants. The better educated new residents spark off the actual physical urban renewal as they take charge of their local government authorities, upgrade their dwellings and encourage revitalisation of existing commercial areas. The ripple effect then passes slowly to nearby suburbs including commercial centres, docks, stores etc.

Obviously such a process will not be undertaken in Amman as the history and physical structure of the city does not correspond with the European or new world experience. With 51 per cent of land within the Amman city limits not built upon there is room for urban expansion, and the newly planned overpasses should also encourage to construct further from the city centre.

One of the most important aspects of urban renewal is the preservation of culturally and historically significant buildings; if there is to be any form of restoration of Amman's older quarters it should come about because a decision is made to preserve the city's early heritage. Official encouragement of tourism may also kick off some degree of restoration, particularly in those areas adjoining antiquities sites such as the Q'ala in Jabal Hussein.

The future of these charming and historically interesting areas then remains largely in the hands of local municipal authorities. A decision however is urgent as considerable new and incongruous construction sometimes not conforming with building by-laws has already been undertaken.

The projects designed by the university students demonstrated some ingenious solution and showed sympathy and understanding of the historic importance of the areas studied.

Revamping Hussein Mosque

The revitalising of the Hussein Mosque and Souk el Suka entailed massive planning. Carried out by nine young women, the final plan involved rerouting traffic to bypass the major downtown area and remodelling the Mosque's functions to include both a library and a madrasa. As the main mosque in Amman, the young women believed that it should include the traditional sahn or courtyard which would not only enhance the mosque for Friday worshippers, but ease pedestrian congestion during the week. The small shops backing the mosque were rationalised and remodelled with an Islamic spirit in keeping with the upgrading of the entire area.

The emphasis in Ziad Masmaat's project of Sa'adeh Street in Lweibdeh is to develop the area in accordance with the fabric of the entire road. Many Jordanian architects, he says "are too individualistic in their work, they do not take into consideration the topography or rhythm of the surrounding built-up area."

The site of Ziad's project includes a finely built stone house dating from the initial reconstruction of modern Amman. He explains the ordering of the street as high mass and low mass rhythm. He continued this theme with a children's club followed by play area then a coffee shop, on the vacant land down hill from the old house. The new introductions, illustrated on Ziad's model enhance the charm of the renovated house although their spirit is modern, and admirably complemented the tone of the entire street.

Kalha steps

One of the smallest, yet most

difficult, of the student projects, the Kalha steps, was refurbished with subtle imagination by four young women Basma Marji, Lubna Abu Zahra, Rana Abweh, and Roula Habash.

The Kalha steps, like many others in the old Amman quarters, are almost hidden from the passerby and present a picture of muted mystery — as they twist and turn into an unseen destination. The young women carefully monitored pedestrian traffic on the steps and during peak hours they estimate 5.5 people pass through per minute. A variety of classes also use the steps they report, depending upon time, the earliest are workers, later secretaries, office workers and so on.

The girls explained the organic nature of the steps and how they had developed out of the natural land flow from a donkey trail in past days into the present densely built-up commercial area. Each of the young women renovated one segment of steps. Firstly they defined the downtown entrance more clearly, remodelled the hotel situated on the left and the office block on the right. They tried to maximise on the views across the valley of the Citadel by some quite ingenious methods. First of all, creating parallel glass windows in the office building so people could see the ancient view from the steps and by renovating a very dilapidated residential enclave higher up the stairs to allow the tenants the maximum visibility of this surprising and unique landscape.

The young architects wanted people to linger on the steps so they created commercial activities, a gallery, small shops, cafeteria and so on. In its renovated form the Kalha steps would be a model for future refurbishment of Amman's many unique and interesting stairways.

With the bright new generation of Jordanian architects fascinated with Amman's not so distant past, the older quarter of the city may gracefully survive the next decade and gain their rightful place.

Marcos toppled, Aquino takes power

(Continued from page 1)

Shouting "attack, attack," the youths seized pieces of wooden barricades as they rushed forward. They carried signs saying "Aquino for president" and "people's power."

The first civilians to enter the palace grounds seemed overawed rather than vengeful. But then an angry crowd burst in, rampaging through the four-storey administrative building, tipping down pictures of Mr. Marcos and Imelda, tipping over tables and chairs and smashing down doors.

Outside, the crowd swarmed over three tanks and armoured troop carriers abandoned in the driveway to the elegant main palace building fronting the Pasig River. They chanted "Cory, Cory" — nickname of the newly acclaimed president.

A spokesman at the U.S. Clark Air Force Base north of Manila said the Marcos family left at 11.50 p.m. (1550 GMT) after flying in by helicopter two hours earlier.

But in Washington, White House spokesman Larry Speakes said Mr. Marcos was resting at Clark Base.

One senior Reagan administration source told Reuters the ousted Philippine leader could remain at the base for a day or more.

Mr. Marcos' first stop was to be at a U.S. base on Guam, a congressional source told AP in Washington. From there, the source said, Mr. Marcos will decide where to go.

The source, who demanded anonymity, said the United States "had been negotiating like mad (frantically)" with both Mr. Marcos and the opposition over the last several days.

She wanted to stay and hoped to succeed him eventually." In his Washington press conference, asked about the status of the Clark Air Force Base and the Subic Bay Naval Base, Mr. Shultz said, "We are prepared to confer with the new government... to cooperate fully."

Mr. Shultz added that Mrs. Aquino "has supported the presence of the bases, and insofar as I know... has no question in her mind that they are there properly."

He said the agreement for the bases "runs to 1991, and I'm sure when that time comes, there will be negotiations."

Gorbachev assails U.S. proposal

(Continued from page 1)

intermediate-range missiles could be reached independently of accords on strategic weapons and space arms.

But he said Mr. Reagan's stand on British and French missiles and on Soviet missiles in Asia block the process of eliminating missiles in Europe.

"In his letter, the president agrees in general with some or other

Soviet proposals and intentions as regards the issues of disarmament and security," Mr. Gorbachev said. "In other words, the reply seems to contain some reassuring opinions and theses."

However, these positive pronouncements are swamped in various reservations, linkages and conditions, which in fact block the solution of radical problems of disarmament."

Iraqis wage 'final' battle

(Continued from page 1)

the Gulf war.

After being disappointed by the Security Council resolution, the Iranian forces in the northern sector of the warfront launched the offensive, said Hashemi Rafsanjani, the speaker of Iran's parliament who is also the spokesman of the supreme defence council.

The Security Council adopted the resolution Monday night calling for an immediate ceasefire in the war, and the withdrawal of the rival forces behind their own borders.

The council urged that a com-

prehensive exchange of war prisoners be completed after the cessation of hostilities and called on the parties to submit immediately all aspects of the conflict to mediation or other means of peaceful settlement.

The council deplored "the escalation of the conflict, especially territorial incursions, the bombing of purely civilian population centres, attacks on neutral shipping or civilian aircraft, the violation of international humanitarian law... and, in particular, the use of chemical weapons contrary to obligations under the 1925 Geneva Protocol."

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Why the distinction

ISRAELI SHOULD be feeling gratified and exhilarated over the expected arrival this week of a suspected Nazi war criminal for trial, in that the court proceedings would afford it an excellent chance to remind the world once again of the "Jewish holocaust" and reassert the Jewish people's right to the "promised land." As the Israeli government indicated on Tuesday, an indictment against John Demjanjuk "could take weeks," without a doubt, maybe even months. Quite rightly so, for how else Israel could continue to churn out, day after day during the next few weeks or months, detailed accounts of how the suspected Nazi operated the gas chambers to "eliminate the Jewish race from the face of earth" in the Treblinka camp during World War II.

The Israeli foreign minister, Yitzhak Shamir, was more explicit in his allusion to the promises of propaganda sweep that the trial is holding out. The proceedings against Demjanjuk, whose appeal against extradition was turned down by the U.S. supreme court on Monday, will be "a call of destiny" for the Jewish people, according to Shamir. Of course, Shamir could have put it better had he added the words "in Arab land," but we don't expect him to come out and talk so straight, do we?

Meanwhile the well-oiled wheels of the Zionist propaganda machine, well-known for its ability to rise to the occasion, are on the spin again, churning out reports of how Demjanjuk will be confined in the same cell that accommodated Adolf Eichmann in 1962, and how the latest suspect would be produced in court in the same bullet-proof cage in which Eichmann heard himself being branded "the mastermind of the Jewish holocaust" and condemned to death.

As if responding to an appeal for additional help from the Zionist apparatus, the Western media have already put Demjanjuk on the dock, tried him and found him guilty of "exterminating 900,000 Jews in Treblinka." Not that the Israeli verdict could be any different, but evidently someone forgot to check German statistics of the war, and find out that the number of dead at Treblinka, according to books in Bonn archives, was far less than the media mentioned.

Well, one or one million, killing is killing; but why add the word "Jews"? The same Bonn archives also say that the Treblinka victims included a large number of gypsies, Poles, German Christians as well as thousands of unidentified people.

We are neither in favour of Demjanjuk or any other Nazi, suspected, accused, convicted or otherwise, nor against the process of justice in whichever part of the globe. We only hope that the international community, the target of the Israeli exploitation of the Demjanjuk case, realises the propaganda carpet being rolled in Israel to welcome Demjanjuk is just another manifestation of the massive Israeli effort to keep up its image as a "nation that was rightfully created for a people who rightfully deserved it after hundreds of years of persecution."

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Defending the nation

KING Hussein in his replies to the representatives of various public sectors at the Royal Court has urged Jordanians and Palestinians to launch discussion and to make assessment of the political situation. He said that the challenges and dangers which Jordan confront are so immense and the responsibilities are wide and heavy. Jordan, which guards the longest confrontation lines in the face of the Zionist enemy and the Israeli expansionist plans, extends a hand to the Palestinian people to share with them the responsibility and to offer their partnership in the long march ahead. The Palestinians and the Jordanians have common goals and destiny and they both should do their utmost to save the Palestinian people from Israeli occupation and liberate the lands and the holy places. Joint endeavours are necessary and vital for the coming stages. The King's statements are a demonstration of his full realisation of the situation and his loyalty to the national cause. The King wants the Jordanian family to be united and strong in the face of all Israeli challenges and he wants the people to be steadfast and struggle together to secure the freedom of their kinsmen and the liberation of their land.

Al Dustour: Solidarity with Kuwait

IN a cable to the Emir of Kuwait, His Majesty King Hussein expressed Jordan's support for Kuwait's solid and firm stand in the face of aggression threatening the eastern flank of the Arab World. The Kuwaiti ruler and the Kuwaiti people are our kinsmen and our family and they enjoy the respect of all Arab people everywhere. It is to be emphasised that the Jordanians and the Kuwaitis are linked by more than one tie and have common interests and common objectives. Now, as the Kuwaitis are confronting danger, the Arab people of Jordan and everywhere should rally to their support and extend backing and help if need be to the Kuwaiti people. The Kuwaitis are now confronting the enemy in the eastern parts of the Arab World because they support the Iraqi just cause and Iraq's endeavours to protect the Arab Nation and repel aggression. In his cable, the King expressed the Jordanian people's feelings of support and solidarity with the Kuwaiti people and ruler and on behalf of the Jordanian people.

Sawt Al Shaab: Jordan's commitment

IN less than a year, King Hussein was able to wrest an American recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland and through his relentless and continuous efforts he has been able to make Washington accept the representation of the PLO. King Hussein is committed to serve the Palestine cause and though he decided to end all political coordination with the PLO leadership, the joint Jordanian-Palestinian march will continue and never stop until the Palestinian people have regained their rights and lands. King Hussein, through his speeches to cheering supporters at the Royal Court, has clearly indicated the Jordanians will not act for the Palestinians but since they both form one family Jordan will continue to support Palestinian rights and struggle and will serve as a partner in every endeavour to reach the aspired goals.

South Yemen: Comrades struggle for power

By John R. Countryman

THE fighting in South Yemen between rival Marxist factions has demonstrated that behind the country's facade of rigid socialist political, economic and social organisation lie powerful personal and tribal animosities, unrecconciled since South Yemen gained its independence from Britain in 1967. At the time of independence two groups of local nationalists were vying for power. One, drawn mainly from labour leaders and school teachers in the former Crown Colony of Aden, looked toward Nasser's Egypt and Arab nationalism as their model; the other, radicalised up-country subjects of the petty rulers of the former Aden Protectorate, chose more orthodox Marxism.

This latter group, the National Liberation Front (NLF), won out in 1967, and having defeated the Nasserites, began purging the more moderate elements from within their own ranks, most of whom were in prison or exile by 1971. From 1978, with major ideological issues largely settled and the country firmly on the road to "scientific socialism," personal bickering and the struggle for power nevertheless continued in an atmosphere of grudging compromise and growing mistrust. In 1978 the ultra radicals asserted themselves when Abdul Fattah Ismail came to power following the overthrow and execution of the former president, Salim Rubayy. Ali, Soviet and Cuban forces, by then a fixture in the country, intervened to help Abdul Fattah, who had won a reputation for his rigid Marxist orthodoxy and reliable friendship with Moscow.

But in 1980 Abdul Fattah was forced into a Moscow exile, having proved to be personally un-

popular, a poor administrator and the eventual victim of still smoldering animosities within the South Yemeni leadership. The USSR acquiesced in his replacement by Ali Nasser Mohamud, being persuaded that Ali Nasser was also a reliable friend and that under his more capable and popular leadership, South Yemen would develop as a stronger client state.

Over the next five years Ali Nasser increasingly turned his attention to South Yemen's weak economy (it remains one of the world's poorest nations with a per capita income of less than \$400). Avoiding structural changes which might offend Marxist orthodoxy and jeopardise modest but essential Soviet military and economic assistance, he chose to end the previous pattern of South Yemeni subversion and cross-border warfare against its neighbours.

Ali Nasser's new policy was probably motivated less by genuine moderation than by the judgement that earlier destabilisation attempts had been fruitless and that badly needed economic assistance could be attracted only by adopting a "good neighbour" policy. And indeed, under Ali Nasser's leadership South Yemen established a decent relationship with Saudi Arabia, ceased support for the National Democratic Front's operations against the government of North Yemen and entered into reconciliation negotiations with Oman.

What sparked the January outbreak of fighting is still unclear. The Abdul Fattah radicals may have concluded that their position had improved to the point where they could risk a final armed bid

for power. Alternatively, and according to rebel sources, it was Ali Nasser who made the first move to eliminate his opponents. Ali Nasser's position had been deteriorating for some time. In late 1984, with Soviet encouragement, Abdul Fattah had returned from Moscow where his prestige had been enhanced by being allowed to meet with foreign dignitaries visiting Moscow. Changes in the structure of the ruling Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) earlier in 1984, Ali Nasser's relinquishment of the prime minister's office in February 1985, and an increase in the number and power of the ultra radicals as a result of the YSP Congress in October 1985 were all indicative of the increasing strength of Abdul Fattah's faction and Ali Nasser's growing weakness.

The timing and particularly the violent aftermath of the coup attempt apparently caught the USSR off guard. Given the extent of the Soviet presence and influence in South Yemen it is unlikely, however, that Moscow was unaware something was brewing. Certainly, Soviet patronage of Abdul Fattah may have encouraged him to make a bid for power. Indeed, Soviet leaders probably saw two advantages in having Abdul Fattah return to South Yemen in the first place.

First, he could act as a watchdog for Soviet interests, particularly in an atmosphere in which the USSR was growing nervous about Ali Nasser's overtures to the area's moderates, and feared that an increase in the foreign economic presence in South Yemen could undermine its own interests. Second, it probably welcomed a certain amount of factionalism within the

South Yemeni leadership so that it could act as the final arbiter. But if it had decided to "replace" Ali Nasser, it probably had in mind a more gradual and certainly a less bloody and destructive scenario for Abdul Fattah's assumption of leadership. The Soviet leadership can hardly welcome near civil war in a country which has been a model if not a showplace of socialist organisation.

Apparently a number of the key figures in the original coup plot are dead. Aden radio in rebel hands has admitted that Defence Minister Salih Mulahe, his predecessor Ali Nasser Antar and the deputy chairman of the party presidium, Mutlaq Hassan, were all killed. At the time of writing the fate of Abdul Fattah himself remains unclear, but it appears he has been badly wounded. With the ultra-radical leadership decimated, but with Ali Nasser apparently losing his military struggle and holed up in his home province of Abyan, the Russians have been talking to Prime Minister Raider Abu Bakr Al Attas who was conveniently in New Delhi when fighting began on January 13 and who then hurried off to Moscow for consultations.

The death of Abdul Fattah Ismail was officially announced by the Aden government on Feb. 10.

Soviet statements following the talks with Al Attas, though guarded, reveal a clear willingness to accept a new leadership in Aden. The Russians may see in Al Attas, a technocrat, a viable temporary leader. In turn, the rebels have proclaimed Al Attas as the new president, probably in the belief that in the absence of Abdul Fattah, he is the candidate most ac-

ceptable to Moscow. The Soviet leadership probably concluded that the Abdul Al Fattah faction was not only more friendly and dependable but that it would win. Moreover, it would be very difficult to convince a victorious Ali Nasser that the USSR had been non-partisan during the coup attempt, given the long history of its support for Abdul Fattah. It must thus fear that were Ali Nasser to win, he would turn against the USSR. It may have written him off.

On the other hand a victory by the rebels will not be cost free for the USSR, either politically or economically. The message has certainly been sent to Soviet-supported regimes in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Angola and Mozambique — and even to countries like Libya and Syria — that the USSR will abandon former friends who prove to be less than wholly submissive to Moscow. Also, the installation by force of a regime in Aden identified with the aggressive South Yemeni policies of the past is certain to set back Soviet efforts to woo Arab moderates in the area.

Saudi Arabia is now likely to turn an increasingly deaf ear to the USSR's long-standing efforts to gain diplomatic recognition. Oman and the United Arab Emirates, which recently recognised the Soviet Union, are likely to freeze their relations with Moscow and not allow the Russians to establish a diplomatic presence in their capitals. North Yemen, which has particularly vivid and unpleasant memories of South Yemen's cross-border operations under Abdul Fattah, will be concerned and may even support an Ali Nasser-led insurgency to im-

pose that the newly installed rebel government is kept off balance. Finally, the fighting in South Yemen has resulted in widespread devastation. Wealthy peninsula states will be very reluctant to give reconstruction or other assistance to a regime whose leaders are identified with an earlier period of South Yemeni extremism. The Soviet Union could thus be forced to provide the new Aden regime with extensive financial assistance to avoid a deterioration of the economy which might lead to further political unrest.

The rebel forces appear to be winning, and if the USSR gives them wholehearted support they are almost certain to take over the nominal government of South Yemen. Ali Nasser is down but not however out. He has a strong power base in his home province of Abyan and can command many loyal tribesmen. Whether these irregulars would be a match for Soviet-supported regular armed forces in a prolonged insurgency remains to be seen. For Ali Nasser, to undertake an uprising against a new Soviet-supported central government would require help from the outside — and at present that seems unlikely. South Yemen could join the growing ranks of Soviet client states — Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Angola, Mozambique — where the central government is under rebel attack — Middle East International, London.

Ambassador John R. Countryman was U.S. ambassador to Oman from 1981-83. He is now a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Georgetown, on detail from the U.S. State Department.

Khomeini, at 83, still Iran's decision maker

By Hugh Pope

TEHRAN — Seven years after his return from exile to lead the victorious Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini at 83 remains the key decision-maker in Iran.

His political power lies in his near-holy status and the all-pervading influence he wields in private meetings with Iran's younger leaders.

Khomeini's directives are channelled through a select group of his old theology students who occupy the key posts in the Islamic Republic. A network of Khomeini-appointed Friday prayer leaders spreads his word in the provinces.

Any major change in policy must be endorsed by Khomeini to take effect.

Only Khomeini has the power to make the most important decision for Iran — when to end the five-year-long Gulf war with Iraq. Officials say he will not settle for anything less than the ouster of the Iraqi government.

In his hands is also the other big undecided political issue which overshadows the economy — a stalemate between right-leaning traditionalists and left-leaning populists among the ruling body of clerics and young Islamic militants.

At stake are the post-revolutionary ownership of a fifth or Iran's agricultural land, 500 nationalised industries and the role of the traditional bazaar business class.

Khomeini could be seen balancing these forces last year when he encouraged the traditionalist Ali Khamenei to run for a second four-year term as president, while at the same time ensuring that the populist, pro-public sector Mir-Hossein Mousavi stayed on as Khamenei's prime minister.

Politicians were unsure how to follow his recommendations and whether his supreme religious status made them binding.

The debate petered out with a vague populist-traditionalist agreement to disagree. Some felt that since Khomeini's recommendation was not an order, members of parliament were free to form their own opinion — and 99 voted no confidence in Mousavi or abstained.

One revolutionary achievement which Khomeini shows particular pride and interest in preserving is Iran's new won independence from foreign powers, which dominated Iranian domestic policy-making in the past two centuries.

Last year Khomeini endorsed a change of track from an antagonistic to a pragmatic foreign policy. But diplomats note Iran is still giving nothing away on basic issues like the war.

A major issue on which Khomeini has not recently spoken is his succession. Though long-time follower Ayatollah Hossein-Ali Montazeri was officially recommended for the job late last year.

The clockwork discipline of Khomeini's life is legendary and unchanged by experience of absolute power.

Members of his household say they can even set their watches by his movements. "He is like a computer," one intimate told the Islamic Republic newspaper.

For nearly six years, Khomeini has not left his small, cheaply-furnished house in a sealed-off old north Tehran suburb, where he is guarded by road blocks, anti-aircraft guns and fiercely loyal Revolutionary Guards.

He lives surrounded by his family and aides — chief among them his son Ahmad — and his daily routine is dominated by praying, reading, simple meals, receiving visitors and listening to newscasts from all over the world on his shortwave radio.

This lifestyle fits in with the low profile Khomeini wishes to project. Though his portraits stare sternly from every government office wall, he recently ordered his picture to be removed from mosques and newspapers to avoid publishing unimportant news about his activities.

The only time he is seen on television now is for occasional speeches from a balcony in a nearby religious meeting hall.

Although seven years of power have not apparently affected Khomeini, the fact that his lifestyle is now the model has meant sweeping changes in public life in Iran.

Anti-vice patrols have ensured that all women must wear Iran's Islamic dress, for which the minimum is a headscarf and a baggy coat in a muted colour.

In public, religious women like Khomeini's wife Bani must always wear the chador, a black or patterned sheet covering the whole body except the eyes and nose.

Consumption of alcohol by Muslims is banned and "Komiteh" militiamen break up rowdy parties, often detaining the guests to lecture them on the need to reform their ways.

Coupled with the difficulties of war and an economic slowdown, the old Western-educated middle and upper classes are in retreat and some two million have gone abroad. In their place has grown up a new class of entrepreneurs and shopkeepers.

The departure of the old guard is not regretted by hardline officials, who are as determined as Khomeini to realise an ideal Islamic society.



French commonwealth: What is common?

By Mort Rosenblum
The Associated Press

PARIS — French-speaking nations forged a sort of commonwealth last week. But, with little wealth in common beyond roots in *racine*, they focused on an anxious campaign to defend the language.

French President Francois Mitterrand opened the summit on Monday. "The identity of the French-speaking world is threatened," he declared. "The renaissance is there. You only have to wait it."

Presidents, prime ministers and delegates from 39 states spent three days on such diverse themes as South Africa, cocoa prices, debt and war in Lebanon.

The surface tone was grandeur: Versailles, the mounted garde republicaine in gleaming brass helmets, and "Les Immortels" of the Academie Française, in green-embroidered finery and silver swords.

But in the corridors, the topic was language.

"If we can't come up with our own terminology for computers, business, advertising, we are finished," remarked a French-speaking Canadian diplomat. "English will bulldoze us."

The 30 resolutions dealt mainly with building the commercial ability of French and making modern French culture available throughout the community.

An audio-visual agency is to distribute French-language television programmes and newscasts. Part of France's television network is to be expanded around the world.

A data base and consultation centre is to help computer systems. A publishing house will push new works in French. Training centres, academies and prizes are to spur youths to polish their language.

The main result was a bridge between France and Canada, a dream since Charles de Gaulle sought to use Quebec as a mirror to reflect France's imperiled glory. France lost Canada in 1763, with the Treaty of Versailles. The eminent French historian Fernand Braudel said last year that France's international decline dated from that defeat.

The group is to meet next in Quebec during 1988. The invitation came from Robert Bourassa, prime minister of Quebec province, who attended on equal footing with Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.

Bourassa said the meeting consecrated French-speaking Canadians' links to France, opening new possibilities, after 20 years of federal objections in Ottawa.

As the summit began, Mulroney suggested the delegates might fashion their own version of the British Commonwealth, and others picked up the theme.

Afterward, however, Mitterrand told reporters, "I don't think you can compare the commonwealth and the French Community, except that they are both large bodies... concerned with world affairs."

Differences were clear at the summit. Besides the English language, a number of commonwealth countries share such institutions as Westminster democracy, a similar legal code, cooperation agencies, cricket and a queen.

Apart from France, nearly all French-speaking nations are one-party states, constitutional monarchies — or also part of the British commonwealth, with English as their first language.

Lebanon is a democracy, but the use of French is limited mainly to the Maronite Christian community. The largest nation after France is Zaire, which was colonised by a Belgian king. France's largest former colony, Algeria, shunned the meeting as tainted by colonialism.

Nearly half the members are African states who deal with France directly or in the context of annual summit meetings the French organise for former African colonies.

President Abdou Diouf of Senegal, a committed Francophile who is chairman this year of the Organisation of African Unity, emphasised that French coexisted with national languages in most of Africa.

The meeting emphasised the anomalies of French culture blended into other societies — and the mixed feelings left after the often turbulent dissolution of Fra-

nco's last empire, after 1945.

In Madagascar, for example, French troops killed perhaps 80,000 separatist insurgents in 1947. But Madagascar's leftist President Didier Ratsiraka declared at Versailles:

"From four corners of the world, people love your country and speak your language. I have a French education and am proud to speak French."

Later, a Madagascar writer complained to the French waiter the luncheon was not up to the standards of haute cuisine. He thought the meeting was premature, in any case.

"It is too soon after independence for most states," he remarked. "It is still the relationship of a parent to its children."

Capt. Thomas Sankara of Burkina Faso sent a message to the meeting, drawing a line between the language of France, which bears the threat of neo-colonialism, and a broader concept of French.

"It is to help enrich universal French that we lend our support," he wrote. "Through French, we have common ties with the fight of

the Vietnamese people and can better hear the cry of the people of New Caledonia (fighting for independence from France)."

At the ceremonial opening, it was the Vietnamese delegate, culture minister Cu Huy Can, who reminded his colleagues that the first great encyclopedia in the world was in French.

Following his suggestion, leaders agreed to subsidise a series of low-cost paperback books, beginning with an anthology of Victor Hugo.

Afterward, however, he told a reporter that only a quarter of Vietnamese students choose to study French as their foreign language. Another quarter picks English. One half study Russian.

Can, a poet with an elegant command of French, was asked if he wrote in the language of Victor Hugo. "Never," he said. "Always in Vietnamese."

The influential daily, Le Monde, said in a front-page editorial: "The results were surprisingly concrete for a universal festival of this sort." But it noted the remark of a delegate from Quebec: French papers gave the historic summit less attention than the annual women's lingerie show.

LETTERS

Domestic tourism too

To the Editor:

WITH reference to Ms. Haddad's letter to the Editor printed in the Feb. 19, issue of the Jordan Times, I would also like to commend Mr. Atallah for wishing to promote tourism to this fascinating country. However, could I suggest that he looks at the expatriates already here as a source of revenue. Unfortunately many are put off by the high tourist hotel rates and cost of visiting archaeological sites. For example on a recent visit to Aqaba with a Jordanian, he received a special hotel rate. I had to pay much more.

Similarly a visit to ancient Petra cost me far more than it did him. I am sorry but I consider this to be discriminatory. I live and work here, pay taxes, social security and obey the laws. I also agree with Ms. Haddad about the air fares and it is of course not only Asia who are charging high fares. I want to bring my parents here for a holiday but frankly they can almost reach the Jordan for the same cost as to Amman.

S. Whayman
Amman

مكتبة الأمل

From China: Medical pillows promise longevity

By Cui Ying and Tian Xuechang

Do chrysanthemums and other flowers and herbs contribute to good eyesight and longevity? If the scientists of traditional Chinese medicine follow the lead of Empress Dowager Ci Xi (1835-1908), who ruled China longer than other women, they may find a positive link. So strong was her belief in the medicinal powers of the chrysanthemum that she annually led a large retinue of maids and eunuchs to the imperial gardens in Peking to personally select the largest blossoms. She then directed that they be sewed into silks embroidered pillows on which she reportedly slept nightly until she died in 1908 at age 73.

Her belief in the medicinal powers of the pillows may be apocryphic, though, for a combination of recent research in the field of traditional medicine and the belief of many patients is leading to a small revival of the use of medicinal pillows in China. Traditional Chinese medicine dates back at least 2,000 years. It primarily uses compounds made of herbs, with some of its medicines having animal or mineral origins. Most of the traditional pills and powders prescribed to patients by doctors are taken orally, although some are applied as salves on the skin. Acupuncture and heat treatments (moxibustion) also are among the heal-

ing methods that traditional doctors prescribe. The practitioners of the traditional medicine have experimented for centuries with growing and preparing compounds from herbs and flowers. The history of medicinal pillows can be traced to China's ancient times. Their use was first recorded in the "Thousand Gold Remedies for Emergencies" published in the seventh century A.D. during the Tang dynasty (618-907). They are also found in the "Compendium of Materia Medica" compiled by famous Chinese pharmacologist Li Shizhen (1518-1593), which is still a major pharmacopoeia of traditional Chinese medicine and a must for students of the traditional school.

In the 20th century the use of the pillows declined, but now new experiments and successful treatments by a veteran traditional medicine practitioner have renewed interest in the technique. Dr. Wang Jingzhong of Hefei, the capital of east China's Anhui Province, started to test the possible curative powers of the pillows in 1976. Applying modern techniques, he devised what he describes as a scientific method for preparing them. Research involving 51 patients who used his pillows showed an effective cure rate of 94.5 per cent, according to Dr. Wang. Fourteen veteran doctors who reviewed the treatment method pointed out at an evaluation forum that the special pil-

lows are particularly good for pains in the head or legs, high blood pressure, neurosis and certain neck problems, which do not have organic causes. Dr. Wang's pillows are embroidered silk pillowcases stuffed with compounds of mixed medicinal herbs such as peony bark, cassia seeds, stems of the plant chuanxiong rhizome, chrysanthemums and similar herbs and flowers. According to Dr. Wang, these herbs help the central nerve system and effect coronary arteries and therefore are good for hypertension and similar problems. Pillows are filled on a doctor's prescription with different drugs to meet the special needs of individual patients. Most of the drugs used have ingredients that are believed to be absorbed by the nose and the skin. Dr. Wang said pillow stuffings available include "leaves of five plants" — mulberry, bamboo, willow, lotus and periwinkle — for headache and sore throat. These leaves, scientifically processed, help relieve pain, he said. Pillows of the peels of five fruits — orange, pear, apple, persimmon and watermelon — stimulate perspiration and are cure for neurosis. Chemical compounds in these peels are said by Dr. Wang to affect the nerves and respiratory tract, causing relief. Stuffing of a pillow to help vertebrae problems include Chinese quince, white peony and the root of pueraria lobata, a plant of the



Pillows prepared by the Sankai Technical and Economic Service Corporation in Hefei, capital of east China's Anhui province.

bean family. It is said to relieve pain and stimulate blood circulation. There are also pillows for treating pain on legs and the back. Dr. Wang explained.

"These special pillows have therapeutic effects, through the skin, the nose and certain acupuncture points on the back of the head and the neck such as Points 'Fengfu' and 'Fengchi,'" Dr. Wang said. "It's the method of external treatment according to the traditional school of medicine to save

the trouble of taking internal medicines. The pillows for hypertension, for example, are intended to dissipate the heat symptoms and cool the blood," he added. Dr. Wang said his pillows are particularly effective for cases involving high blood pressure, headaches, sore throat and fatigue.

The pillows for his patients are prepared by the Sankai Technological and Economic Service Corporation of Hefei and sell for 15 to 45 yuan (about U.S. \$5 to \$15) depending on the contents. The pillows can be used for approximately one year, if stored properly in plastic bags. Several Japanese companies have expressed interest in possibly obtaining medicinal pillows for use by Japanese doctors. In the meantime, Dr. Wang and his colleagues plan to continue their work with the pillows, and their possible curative powers — China feature.

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Exotic space technologies provide medical benefits

UNITED NATIONS — Exotic technologies developed to aid space travelers or to explore planets like Mars and Uranus are providing improved medical care for people on Earth, according to the chief medical doctor of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

NASA's director of life sciences, Dr. Arnold Nicogossian, told a U.N. committee February 20 that space research has provided practical technology spinoffs in medicine since the earliest days of the space program. For example, devices used to study the effects of weightlessness on astronauts has led to new pacemakers for heart patients; equipment built to detect life on Mars has been modified to analyze and treat infections; and technology used to take pictures of Uranus is helping detect people to work.

In a speech to the 23rd session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Dr. Nicogossian said work in space has also led to improvements in health care delivery systems, including telecommunications in rural areas, computer processing of images for screening birth defects and cancer, and new treatments for heart disease.

The following is a fact sheet on eight of the latest medical care developments excerpted from Dr. Nicogossian's presentation:

Lidscope

Low-intensity X-ray imaging techniques were developed to study celestial objects following observations that some galaxies and stars are strong emitters of X-rays. This technology is now being applied to new astronomy instruments such as the Advanced X-ray Astrophysics Facility (AXAF) which will perform detailed imaging studies of the universe. In X-ray astronomy, the intensity of the radiation received is extremely low.

Since the energy range of X-rays used in medical diagnostics is comparable to the energy range of cosmic X-ray emissions, the low-intensity X-ray imaging system is well suited for medical uses.

A device called the LIXISCOPE (low-intensity X-ray Imaging Scope) was developed utilizing a weak radiation source which reduces the radiation dose received by patients and radiologists to less than one per cent of the radiation generated from conventional X-ray devices. The Lixiscope is so compact that a truly portable system can be brought to the homes of bedridden and handicapped patients, and is ideal for emergency use in field situations where immediate imaging examination is indicated (for example, scanning for bone injury in accidents). Other uses include dental examinations and orthopedic surgery.

Programmable pacemakers

To study the effects of weightlessness on space travelers, NASA has developed and used biotelemetry to monitor the vital physiological functions of astronauts in flight. Modern health care systems now use much of the same technology. Among these are the implantable health-aid devices, notably pacemakers and defibrillators for individuals suffering from heart diseases.

Heart disease remains the leading cause of death in the United States. Many fatal heart attacks result from disturbances of the electrical activity that regulates the mechanical function of the heart. With early detection of such disturbances an artificial pacemaker can generate a timely electrical pulse that will correct the heart muscle function.

In 1979 a programmable pacemaker unit with two-way communications capability was developed which allows a physician to interact remotely with a patient's pacemaker. Where earlier pacemakers, once implanted, delivered a fixed stimulus, this system can be "fine-tuned" to meet each patient's individual needs. As many as six stimulating functions can be controlled at any time. Current technology is focusing on the development of an advanced pacemaker, which offers an implantable device smaller than current units and incorporates additional programming capability.

Implantable defibrillators

Over one million Americans suffer heart attacks each year. Approximately half of these survive the attack, but roughly 50,000 of the latter group die within one year, mostly from ventricular fibrillation, a catastrophic disruption of the normal heart rhythm. An automatic implantable defibrillator has been developed for use by high risk patients. This apparatus detects the onset of a fibrillation event, or other potentially fatal arrhythmias, and automatically delivers an electric impulse to restore the heart to a normal rhythm activity.

Advanced portable defibrillator

Real-time biotelemetry and data analysis developed for medical monitoring of astronauts and on-board medical treatment equipment for manned missions have influenced the development of an Advanced Portable Defibrillator Monitoring System. This device is used in emergency situations to revive heart attack victims. It is lightweight and easy to handle. The defibrillator sends an electric shock to the heart via two metal plates positioned on the chest wall. Once the defibrillator has imposed a normal pattern of electrical activity, the pattern usually will be sustained by the heart. The device combines the defibrillator

contacts (paddles) with a microprocessor-based monitoring system to display treatment and patient information. Telemetry can be added to the system for remote monitoring of victims in the field by hospital-based medical personnel.

Automicronic System

In 1976, the U.S. Viking spacecraft landed on Mars. One of its mission objectives was to detect possible lifeforms. Miniature equipment utilizing electro-optical scanning methods for microbe detection and supporting analytical capabilities were developed for this purpose. This technology was subsequently utilized to develop an automated system for medical laboratories to detect and identify microorganisms that cause infection. This system, called an AutoMicrobic System (AMS), has the additional capability to test organisms for sensitivities to different antibiotics. The AutoMicrobic System enables a laboratory to furnish guidelines to a physician for antimicrobial therapy the day after a specimen is collected (a time saving of 50 to 80 per cent over standard methods). This system minimizes human error, reduces technician time, and increases laboratory output because the AMS can handle up to 240 patient specimens at one time. Of greatest importance is the reduction of patients' time in the hospital due to faster analysis of the infection and earlier treatment.

Bone stiffness analyser

Continuous bone mass loss has been observed in space flight. In anticipation of future manned missions that might run two years or more, NASA sought a practical, inexpensive and non-invasive way of making quantitative measurements of bone stiffness and mass that will be sen-

sitive enough to monitor and evaluate small changes. A system is now in the final stages of development after a decade of effort. Such a system has played a significant role in health care delivery to aging individuals since over 30 per cent of women and 10 per cent of men over the age of 60 exhibit clinical signs of osteoporosis (bone loss).

A microprocessor-controlled noninvasive bone probe developed in 1977 analyses bone stiffness. The analyser gauges the bone's resistance to small amounts of pressure applied to the forearm or leg bone. To operate the instrument, the subject's arm or leg is positioned so the ends are immobile. The instrument's probe is placed at midshaft, and a current is run through an electromagnetic "shaker," causing the bone to vibrate. The bone's displacement is then measured by a microprocessor, which deduces the bone's stiffness and effective mass. Such information can be used to detect the presence of bone disease, to measure the extent of deterioration, and to aid in prescribing therapy. After three years of clinical testing on more than 300 subjects, the device is now ready for routine use and should be available within the next two years.

Electrical stimulation

Over the years much progress has been made in the area of computer controlled spacecraft systems. Recently, Voyager 2 sent back photographs and data on the planet Uranus, more than 1,000 million miles from earth. This was made possible through sophisticated computer programming. From this technology a computer-controlled, externally-mounted electrical stimulator has been developed for use in rehabilitating cases with spinal cord injury. This technique

is helping lower-limb paraplegic patients to stand and even walk a few steps.

The current system consists of a backpack control box, surface electrodes, force shoes, crutches, and a network of wires. The next logical stage is to produce a simplified control system which can be implanted in a patient. An improved implantable device is now under development utilizing NASA's packaging techniques and electronics reliability technology. The immediate goal is to develop a standardised implantable stimulator that researchers can use in investigations of electrical stimulation on limbs, muscles, and joints. The long-range goal is to allow lower-limb paraplegics to stand reliably and to have a limited walking capability. The improved implantable device is currently in the clinical testing stages.

Human tissue stimulator

Computer controlled spacecraft systems have also enhanced biomedical research in space through the use of telemetry and microminiaturised command systems. These same systems have found their way into a medical application for the control and treatment of various neuromuscular disorders. Neuromuscular difficulties, in particular chronic pain, can often be relieved by electrical stimulation of nerve and muscle tissue. Present devices requiring an external power source and a transmitting coil taped to the skin 24 hours a day, are uncomfortable, inconvenient, and generally unreliable. Today, an implantable human tissue stimulator is available and is a marked improvement over previous systems. This device (the size of a deck of cards) incorporates a nickel-cadmium battery, telemetry, and microminiaturised command systems — U.S. Information Agency.

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Cars of the future are tested in the land of the Lapps

By Per Isaksson
Reuter

ARJEPLOG, Sweden — In the arctic wilderness of Swedish Lapland, the world's great car makers play a game of hide-and-seek, putting the cars of the future through rigorous tests during the dark winter nights.

Among iced-over lakes and snow-covered hills, about a dozen manufacturers run top-secret cold weather laboratories.

Local people said there was some initial excitement over the car firms' activities but that they were now used to hearing the roar of engines and seeing the flicker of car headlights along the narrow mountain roads.

Volkswagen, Fiat, Ford and other car makers come to Arjeplog every winter. Equipment and vehicles are brought here shielded from competitors and other curious onlookers in covered lorries.

The region's attractions as a car maker's proving ground — isolation and freezing winters when temperatures stay below minus 20 degrees centigrade for weeks — were discovered 15 years ago by Mercedes-Benz.

It was here, for example, that the firm tested and developed its anti-lock braking system.

The influx of test drivers and engineers has provided many new jobs in a region plagued by high unemployment.

Several local farmers fit snowploughs to their tractors and supplement their meagre winter income by clearing the huge expanses of frozen lakes which are used as race tracks.

Most hotels sell home-town papers such as the Westburg Nachrichten from the West German town where Volkswagen has its headquarters, along with more traditional souvenirs like Lapp handicrafts and reindeer skins.

Staff from the different companies rarely fraternise. "Secrecy is very tight. We obviously try to show as little as possible," Hans-Joachim Schoepf, head of passenger car testing at Mercedes-Benz, said at a rare press conference.

Standing on the one-metre thick ice on lake Hornavann where the company tests its cars in winter, he told Reuters new models were tested by running piece-by-piece trials of the equipment in older cars.

"Only then do we venture into the open by testing a brand new car," he said. New cars are fitted with mock fronts and their bodywork is remodelled to make them

virtually unrecognisable. Swedish carmaker Volvo is even said to run its own network of informants among the local population to keep track of competitors and suspected industrial spies.

Volvo also signed a contract last autumn with the Swedish Air Force allowing it to conduct tests on the grounds of a closely-guarded airbase in northern Lapland — an option not open to foreign companies for security reasons.

Apart from the risk of industrial espionage, car companies also shroud testing facilities in secrecy because of fears that pictures of new cars that have not yet come to the market may hurt sales of current models, industry analysts said.

Last month a photograph of a new Volvo 480 model, which will be officially unveiled in Geneva in March, was published in a Swedish evening paper.

The photographer — who was roughed up by men in a car escorting the 480 into a petrol station — said it was very rare that a company dared bring a new model into a populated area but the driver seemed to have had no choice as he had run out of fuel.

"We're not really keen on discussing what we do in Lapland," Volvo spokesman Knut Leman told Reuters, but he said Volvo was satisfied with its new testing facility at the Jokkmokk airbase.

Sigurd Sandstrom of the Arjeplog police said the test drivers' preference for driving at night — when the risk of discovery is the least — had resulted in some accidents where drivers had hit reindeer and elk.

"They often drive several hundred kilometres per night, and at high speeds, but they're real professionals so we haven't had that many accidents," he told Reuters.

Although most test drivers eye outsiders at their hotel with suspicion and make sure nobody is near when they spread their maps on tables in the lobby to plot their course before they set off in the evening, a few seem to be less secretive.

On a highway east of Arjeplog, the British car parts producer, Lucas has erected a big sign showing the location of its test course. In another case, two Ford Scorpio cars with big computer terminals installed in the back seat and a mysterious fifth wheel — probably used to measure speed accurately, according to experts — protruding on its right side, were openly parked in central Arjeplog.

Oscar nominee makes movies in his attic

By Brian Cathcart
Reuter

BLARICUM, Netherlands — Hollywood Oscars rarely reward cottage industries, but veteran animator Borge Ring is in the running for one this year with a film he created almost entirely in his attic.

"Anna and Bella," a wistful little tale of two ageing sisters, is among the Academy Award nominees for best animated picture, and Ring conceived and drew it in a murky top-floor studio in his home in this Dutch town.

It is only the second film he has made by himself in more than 30 years in the animation business and, like the first, it was produced on a shoestring budget of less than \$40,000.

Remarkably, the first film was also an Oscar nominee — which may well give the 65-year-old Dane a movie industry record in delivering consistent quality on a low budget.

His achievement is the more remarkable because he does so much by himself in a trade where the practice is for teams of illustrators to share the painstaking frame-by-frame artwork.

"I am an anachronism," he told Reuters in an interview. "I did each and every drawing myself, and those seven-and-a-half minutes of film took between seven and eight months to draw."

Ring, born in the Danish town of Ribe, made his first film when he was 14. But he later abandoned animation, and university, to pursue another passion — playing big band jazz music.

It was not until he was 29 that he returned to film-making, joining an Amsterdam studio where he was to stay for 21 years developing a talent for concise expression by working on 20-second commercials.

He still makes use of his musical background, arranging and playing much of the scores for his cartoons.

His basic schooling in animation came from David Hand, a former pillar of the great Hollywood cartoon studio of Walt Disney. Hand, he says, taught him all he needed to know in just three weeks.

Ring acknowledges freely that his style has been influenced by Disney's, and he has even given Disney star Donald Duck a walk-on part in "Anna and Bella."

But the 44-year-old is being repaid. Ring learned recently that his latest film has been bought by the Disney Animation School, to be shown to students as proof that the old style is still a good style.

It was state funding, from an official Dutch arts body, which enabled him to make his first film, "Oh, My Darling," a 1979 Oscar nominee.

"Oh, My Darling" was a story of possessive parents which illustrated Ring's gift for what he calls "visual hyperbole."

When for example the daughter leaves home to marry, the young couple literally build a nest together, flying to and fro with mouths full of twigs beneath the anguished gaze of her father and mother.

The same technique was applied in "Anna and Bella," in which the old sisters thumb through their photograph album reliving incidents from their youth together both happy and sad.

"Anna and Bella," which was also state-funded, has already won prizes for its maker at film festivals in Canada, the United States, France, Denmark, Japan and Portugal, and Ring admits he was not surprised to learn of the Oscar nomination.

But he will not be among the nervous stars in Hollywood on Oscar night, March 24, because that is not really his style.

When he goes to the United States, he prefers to spend his time swapping ideas and reminiscences with some of the other old hands of the animation business. "I am happy to have a nomination, for me that is as good as an Oscar," he says.

Ethiopia corrals its peasants

The controversial relocation of Ethiopian peasants from the northern highlands to virgin southern land has hidden a much larger forced movement of people. The government's compulsory "villagisation" programme, scheduled to move a total of 23-30 million, has received little media attention — and is contributing to famine in Hararge province. John Madeley is based in Oxford and is the editor of the bi-monthly magazine "International Agricultural Development."

DIRE DAWA, Ethiopia — To escape a compulsory "villagisation" programme, peasants in eastern Ethiopia are fleeing across the border into Somalia at the rate of 1,500 per day.

Officials from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees estimate that by the end of this month there will be 50,000 newly-arrived Ethiopians in Somali refugee camps, mainly located south of the town of Togochale. They will join 800,000 of their countrymen who have been in Somalia for some time. Their presence will strain food resources, which FAO had estimated would last only until the end of March.

"Villagisation" in Ethiopia has thus far received little attention from the media. It has been eclipsed by the controversy over the forced resettlement of 1.5 million people from the barren highlands in northern Ethiopia to virgin lands in the south.

Critics have charged that the real reason for this relocation is political. They say that the government is forcing people to leave Eritrea and Tigre, where it is fighting a war against the Eritrean and Tigrayan separatist movements.

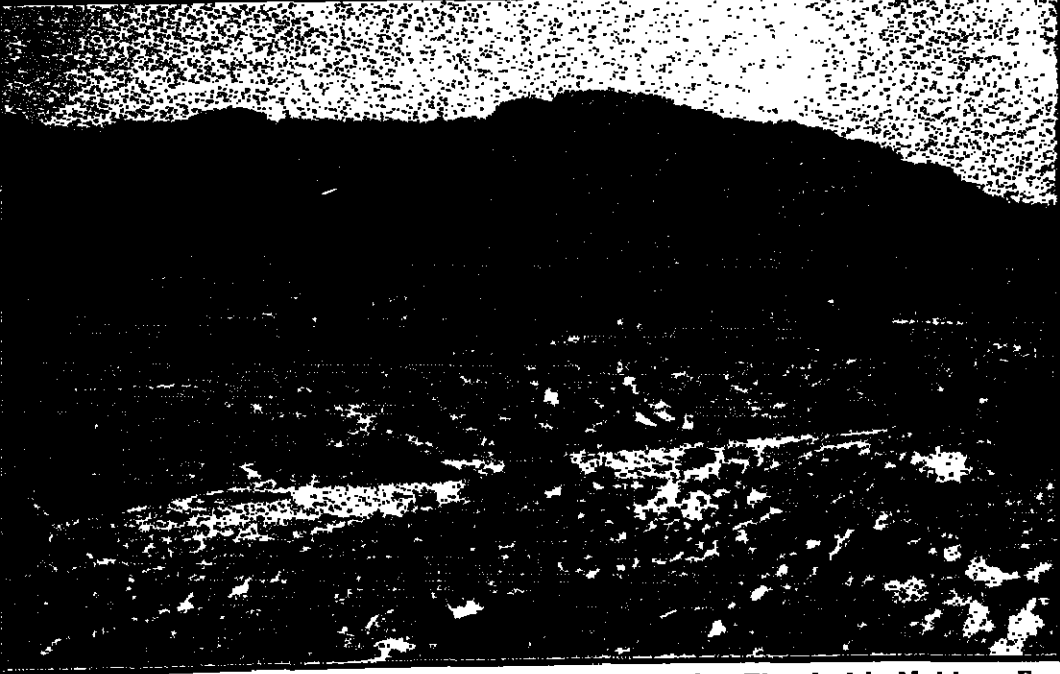
"People hated it," said an aid worker with a leading relief organisation, which asked not to be named for fear of expulsion from Ethiopia. "Party workers may have understood why it was being done, but the peasants were baffled; they didn't want to uproot their homes and go to five miles away from their land."

In Hararge most peasant families used to have a hut for themselves, another for their livestock and an outside latrine. Today, in the new villages throughout the region, houses often stand shoulder to shoulder, with neither shelter for livestock nor latrines. The promised new services have yet to arrive.

Perhaps the most disturbing aspect of villagisation in Hararge is that much of it was carried out during the growing season. As many as a million people were told to build new houses during planting. Once "villagised," some of the peasant farmers had to walk as far as 10 miles per day to their land to tend their newly-sown crops.

The result is that Hararge, not previously a famine province, has become one. By April the situation will be acute, and though rains have been light, the movement of people is largely held to be responsible.

The government's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission says that crops in 22 of the 39 regions of Hararge "have almost totally failed," and that in most other



New villages, such as this one pictured near the town of Girawa, are to be seen throughout Ethiopia's Hararge province (Photo by John Madeley — Earthscan)

Ministry of Agriculture official said, "but in practice local party members took over and decided its pace. We never expected it to happen so quickly. It's being done in Hararge for security reasons but it makes little sense anywhere else."

"Security" here means that the government is trying to make it more difficult for a guerrilla movement known as the Ormo Liberation Front, which is pressing for more local autonomy, to have access to Hararge villagers.

In Tanzania the villagisation

policy of the 1970s is now officially admitted to have been a mistake. It is an error that Ethiopia seems intent on repeating, with the process already started in two additional provinces, Shoa and Gemu Gofa.

In some villages in Hararge people were not moved until they had harvested their crops. Aid workers hope that if Ethiopia pushes on with villagisation, it will be implemented in a way that does not affect food output. So far they have been largely disappointed. — Earthscan feature.

'86 rallying season kicks off tomorrow with Jerash race

By P.V. Vivekanand
and Najwa Najjar
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — This year's rallying season kicks off in Jordan on Thursday when 27 aspirants will roar off in their speeding machines towards the ancient Greco-Roman city of Jerash and back to the Royal Automobile Club (RAC) of Jordan at the Eighth Circle in the first of eight qualifying events for the 1986 National Championship.

A highlight of the 1986 Rothmans Jerash Rally — as the event is named, since the British cigarette manufacturers are sponsoring it — is that the entire 205-kilometre, seven-special stage event will be staged at night. The first car will be flagged off at 6:30 p.m. and is expected back at 1:30 a.m. Friday.

Among the leading contenders for the Jerash Rally are the 1985 champion George Khayat (Nissan 240 RS; co-driver Keith Ferry), Nabil Karam (Opel Manta 400; co-driver Samir Zeine), George Haddad (Toyota Corolla GT; co-driver Fawzi Sawalha), Imad Bustami (Nissan 240RS; co-driver Nader Majali), Nabil

Dirani (Opel Manta 400; co-driver Hamed Ghazi) and Hitham Mufti (Daihatsu Charade; co-driver Bill Gwynne).

His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, who has been rallying off-and-on since taking an impressive appearance in the 1983 season, will be driving an Opel Manta with Amr Bilbeisi in the co-driver's seat.

A conspicuous absence in the Jerash Rally is that of female drivers. The only female participant in the event is Wafai Mseis who will take the co-driver's seat in Hani Bisharat's Toyota Corolla GT.

Vehicles ranging from Mini 1275 GT and Volkswagen Polo to Volvo 244 and Land Rover pick-up are among this year's contenders.

Another highlight of the event is that at least 10 of the vehicles are specially-built rallying machines based in Jordan — "a remarkable feature when compared with their counterparts in the Gulf," says Derek Ledger, RAC general manager and clerk of the course of the Jerash Rally. Addressing a press conference Tuesday to announce details of the rally, Mr. Ledger paid special attention to the increasing interest among Jordanians in rallying.

Fielding reporters' questions, Mr. Ledger further explained that the RAC, organisers of the event, had obtained special permission from the authorities for the contestants and organisers to use purpose-built headlights and spotlights to facilitate Thursday night's event.

"It is no more dangerous to drive at night than during the day," he said in an answer to a question.

The Jerash Rally route stretches through mostly asphalted roads and mudtracks in the northwest of Amman, passing through Alouk, across the Zarqa River, and skirting the King Talal Dam and the dense wooded hillsides of Dibbin before reaching the Jerash ruins and a special stage at Sakhra, further north.

The second half of the route passes through the same terrain in the reverse direction, terminating at the RAC.

As usual, the RAC is fully braced for any eventuality. "Even if it rains or snows, we are not going to call off any special stage or change the route," said Samir Dajani, press officer of the rally.

Civil Defence ambulances and voluntary doctors will be on stand-by at various points in the rally route. Communications services are offered by amateur radio operators, also on a voluntary basis.

The route of the Jerash Rally is also part of the Jordan leg of the 1986 Middle East Rally Championship, Mr. Ledger said.

The other seven of the eight events of the 1986 National Championship are:

— Autotests (speedtest) within the RAC premises on March 28.

— The Rothmans Jordan Rally on April 23, 24 and 25. This event is the Jordan leg of the Middle East Rally Championship.

— The Rothmans Desert Castles Rally on June 27.

— Autotests (speedtests) within the RAC premises on July 25.

— The Danish Dairy Rally on Aug. 29.

— The Rothmans Kings Highway Rally on Nov. 14.

Prizes are awarded to the best driver, best co-driver, best team and best vehicle in various classes and groups in each event with the exception of autotests. Co-drivers do not take part in autotests.

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British sport faces losses from freeze

LONDON (R) — Britain's jockeys, soccer chairman and gambling fraternity are counting the cost of the country's second coldest February this century.

Some estimates put the losses as high as £5 million (\$7 million) and several league soccer clubs, already in a parlous financial state, have been pushed to the brink of bankruptcy by a string of postponements.

Daytime temperatures have hardly crept above freezing in the past three weeks which, added to the occasional blizzard, has led to the postponement of 130 soccer matches and 95 race meetings.

Frozen pitches have also cut deeply into the rugby union and league fixture lists, and it is now doubtful whether the five nations rugby union international between England and Ireland in London will be played this Saturday.

A postponement of the Twickenham match would be the first since 1947, the year Britain shivered in the coldest February of the 20th century.

Racing officials say they have lost about 250,000 potential customers, worth around £1.2 million (\$1.79 million) in admission revenue, since the last jump meeting at Ascot on Feb. 5.

Monday night the Jockey Club, racing's ruling body, announced 20 replacement fixtures in April and May to compensate jockeys, owners and trainers for loss of earnings and prize money.

Racing optimists note that only one major race, the Newbury Gold Trophy, has been lost.

But pessimists note that postponements deter race sponsors and leave many jockeys, who are not on retainers but are paid for every ride, perilously close to the financial deadline.

Further heavy losses have been suffered by bookmakers and the horserace betting levy board, which administers the financing of racing from betting.

The board has lost nearly £2 million (\$3 million) in revenue while the "bookies," with revenue running at 70 per cent of normal levels, have turned to betting on greyhounds, trotting races in France and the date of the resumption of racing in Britain to recoup lost ground.

Soccer officials expect losses from postponements to total about £2 million (\$3 million) as games rescheduled for midweek dates rarely attract as high a gate as those played on a Saturday earlier in the season.

About 15 clubs in the lower divisions, whose main source of income comes from home match revenue, have been granted loans by the players' union (PFA) to tide them over.

Jordan leg of Mideast rally set for April 22

By Najwa Najjar

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Royal Automobile Club (RAC) of Jordan announced on Tuesday that the Jordan leg of the Middle East Rally Championship will be held on April 22-25, 1986.

The Rothmans Jordan Rally, the sixth international rally to be held in Jordan, will cover 1,091 kilometres, with 28 special stages, each ranging from five to 50 kilometres.

Seven of these special stages will be on asphalt roads, four on gravel tracks, and the rest in the wilderness of the Jordanian desert and through dense woods in the countryside.

This year's rally has been slightly restructured. It has been divided into three legs, each with a rest halt.

The event which kicks off at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 22, covers 202 kilometres in a route stretched from Amman to Jerash and back.

On Thursday the cars race 571 kilometres towards Petra and back.

On the last day, Friday, the drivers will race 318 kilometres to Qatrania and back.

The rally is expected to be finished at 4:00 p.m. on Friday with the results to be announced an hour later. Awards will be given to the winners later the same evening at the RAC.

Qatar's Saeed Al Hajri, the Arab World's number one driver who is now concentrating his talents in world and European rallying circuits, will be contesting in the event with his Porsche SCRC. He will not take part in any other leg of the Middle East championship this year because he "would like to see other Arab drivers show what they can do," said a spokesman for the Rothmans Porsche team, Hajri's sponsors.

Another familiar face to rally enthusiasts in the Arab World, Lebanese Michel Salah who is a permanent resident of Kuwait, will be competing in an Audi Quattro (4-wheel drive).

The event could draw exceptionally strong competition since seasoned teams from Lebanon and Cyprus are expected to be among the contestants in addition to veteran rally racers from the Gulf states.

Media coverage of the event will also be extensive since past years' rallies have been attracting increased international attention.

This is the second year that the Jordan Rally forms part of the Federation International du Sports Automobile (FISA) Middle East Rally Championship. The five other legs of the Middle East Championship are held in Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

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Krickstein survives battle in La Quinta Classic tourney

LA QUINTA, California (R) — Aaron Krickstein of the United States survived a close battle with compatriot Eliot Teltscher in the first round of the \$405,000 La Quinta Classic Grand Prix tournament Monday.

Krickstein, seeded 16th, beat Teltscher 4-6, 7-5, 6-3.

Two seeds fell by the wayside Monday. Jan Gunnarsson of Sweden, seeded 11th, lost to compatriot Mike Pernfors, a two-time U.S. collegiate champion, 6-4, 6-2. West German Andreas Maurer, seeded 15, fell to the 18-year-old Peruvian sensation, Jaime Yzaga, 6-6, 6-7, 6-4.

In another first-round match, 15-year-old American qualifier Andre Agassi used his powerful groundstrokes to defeat U.S. wild card entry John Austin 6-4, 6-2.

Agassi will play the tournament's top seed, Mats Wilander of Sweden, in a second-round match on Wednesday. Wilander received a first round bye.

Krickstein and Teltscher are both known for their punishing groundstrokes but their match contained surprising variety and changes of pace.

At 3-3 in the third set, Krickstein survived three break points to go ahead 4-3, then broke Teltscher for 5-3 with a winning forehand volley.

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Becker to spearhead German Davis Cup assault in Mexico

HANOVER, West Germany (R) — Wimbledon champion Boris Becker will lead West Germany in next month's Davis Cup world group first round tennis tie which will be played in Mexico in conditions far removed from last year's final.

The West German tennis federation (DTB) Tuesday named Andreas Maurer, Michael Westphal and Hansjoerg Schwaier to partner Becker in the March 7-9 tie.

Becker, Maurer and Westphal lost 3-2 to Sweden in the 1985 final on a fast indoor surface in Munich. Against Mexico they can expect to play on a slow clay court.

The defeat by Sweden prompted speculation that there would be changes but DTB spokesman Jens-Peter Hecht described this as "a lot of noise about nothing."

Maurer, 27, is again expected to partner Becker in the doubles, leaving team captain Wilhelm Bungert to decide on the second singles player.

Schwaier, who last played in the Davis Cup in the 1985 quarter-finals against the United States, is regarded as the superior clay-court player but Westphal is felt to be in better form.

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Webb stars to lift Hawks to new front against Lakers

NEW YORK (AP) — Spud Webb is the smallest player in the National Basketball Association (NBA) at 5-foot-7, but he is showing a knack for being at his best when the crowds are largest.

Webb, the winner of the NBA's slam-dunk contest before a sellout crowd in Dallas on Feb. 1 played the best game of the season Monday night against the defending champion Los Angeles Lakers in front of a capacity audience in Atlanta. The 102-93 Hawk victory was their first over the Lakers in more than six years.

Webb had 23 points and 13 assists, both career highs, and he delighted the crowd of 16,522 with two dunks and 14 points in the third quarter.

"He's not a novelty; he's a player," Lakers coach Pat Riley said. "What Spud does especially well is come so hard at you on the break. We just can't get in front of him. He is an incredible threat driving and passing off."

In other games, it was Detroit 110, Chicago 100; Houston 110, Dallas 105; Cleveland 124, San Antonio 114; Washington 99, New Jersey 89; and Denver 119, Portland 113.

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Gorbachev blames Brezhnev era; blasts U.S. 'reckless policies'

Communist Party congress opens in Moscow

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev blamed the leadership of the late Leonid Brezhnev Tuesday for damaging the country and said Washington was pursuing "reckless policies" that isolated it increasingly from the world.

Mr. Gorbachev was speaking in the Kremlin at the opening of the first national Communist Party congress since he took power after the death of Konstantin Chernenko last March.

Addressing just under 5,000 delegates and the leaders of all the Kremlin's allies, he said the Soviet Union had fallen into stagnation in the 1970s.

He did not name Brezhnev, who led the country from 1964-1982, but the target of his attack was clear.

"The problems piled up more rapidly than they were resolved," he said in a speech broadcast on television from the Kremlin Palace of Congresses.

Inertia, stiffness, bureaucracy had all "inflicted no small damage" to our society and our cause," he said.

"The situation called for change but a peculiar psychology — how to improve things without changing anything — took the upper hand in the central bodies and, for that matter, at the local level as well," he said.

The party leader was repeatedly interrupted by bursts of applause as he reviewed the errors of the past and sketched his vision for the future of Soviet society.

Mr. Gorbachev had been widely expected to attack the Brezhnev years, regarded by the Kremlin's new leadership as responsible for the country's economic and moral stagnation.

The new leader reviewed plans for modernising the economy, naming ministries he said were still failing to learn from the past and ignoring "the lesson of truth."

At the opening of the session, the 5,000 members of the Communist Party elite and the 153 foreign delegations stood for a minute of silence in honour of Brezhnev and his two successors, Yuri Andropov and Chernenko.

In a review of the state of the world, Mr. Gorbachev painted a bleak picture of capitalist society and concentrated on the United States.

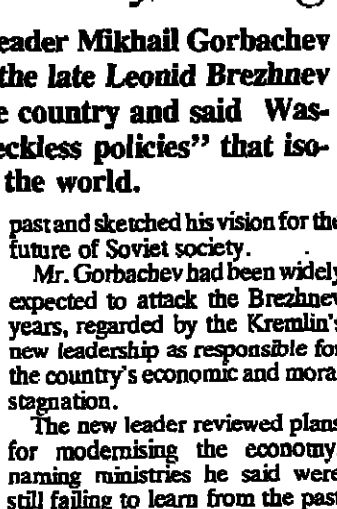
He said the U.S. leadership was blind to the needs of peaceful co-existence with the Soviet Union and pursued doctrines of imperialism that were long out of date.

"The abyss is widening between ourselves and the rest of humanity," he said.

This was "a society whose leaders refuse to assess the realities of the world and draw sober conclusions."

"All this is an indication of the wear and tear of its internal systems of immunity, of its social senility which reduces the probability of far-reaching changes in the policy of its governing forces and augments their degree of recklessness," he said.

U.S. allies were realising that Washington was going too far in asserting its domination, he said. "Washington should not assume unquestioning obedience to its dictation on the part of its allies."



Mikhail Gorbachev

Mr. Gorbachev, who turns 55 next Sunday, dwelt at length on the need for efficient and imaginative management throughout the economy. He singled out agriculture as an area that needed radical reform.

He also complained of ministries that invested resources in outdated equipment and pledged a big effort to improve consumer goods.

"Why should wages be paid for the production of goods that nobody wants," he said to loud applause.

The party leader was expected to return to foreign policy later in the speech, due to end around 1530 GMT.

Calling for the moral regeneration of Soviet society, a constant theme of his leadership, Mr. Gorbachev said the Kremlin's drive against alcoholism had scored some success.

"We can safely say that drunkenness has been ebbed out of the factories," he said.

However, more effort was needed to curb excessive drinking in public and at home, he said to prolonged applause.

The Soviet Union was at the beginning of a serious reconstruction of the economy, he said.

The key to the country's problems lay with accelerating the development of high-quality output, through reforms in management methods and harnessing

and nephew of opposition leader Governor Roman Tmetuchl who was edged out by Mr. Remelik in the 1980 and 1984 presidential elections.

The three defendants were arrested after the assassination but released soon afterwards because of lack of evidence. They were rearrested in August but remained free on bail of \$100,000 each.

The case, expected to last several weeks, is being heard by a three-member court. Palau has no jury system.

The West Pacific island group with a population of 14,000 is a U.N. Trust Territory under the control of the United States.

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science and technology to industry.

Departing from his text, he upbraided the congress for failing to applaud when he spoke of inefficient production practices. After pausing for applause, he said: "Now I see I have twice won your applause by reminding you of the need for change."

State television at one stage showed close-up pictures of Mr. Gorbachev's wife Raisa as she listened to his speech in the auditorium.

No Western journalists were admitted to the Kremlin for the congress, which is regarded by diplomats and Soviet officials as the most significant for more than two decades.

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Angolan rebels kill 27 people

LUANDA (R) — Angolan rebels killed 27 people and wounded 14 during an attack on a village in southern Angola 10 days ago, Angola's official News Agency Angop has reported.

It said Waba village, in Huila province, was close to another village where the rebels of UNITA (National Union For the Total Independence of Angola) murdered 104 civilians on Jan. 28.

UNITA has been fighting Angola's Marxist government since the country's independence from Portugal 10 years ago.

Angolan Foreign Minister Afonso Van-Dunem Mbinda has summoned the Luanda envoys of 12 Communist-ruled countries and asked them to pressure the 'United States to stop "its aggressive politics" against Angola, political sources said Tuesday.

They told Reuters the meeting took place Monday and was attended by diplomats from the Soviet Union, East Germany, Bulgaria, Romania, Vietnam, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Poland, Cuba, North Korea, China and Czechoslovakia.

Last week, Angolan Deputy Foreign Minister Venancio de Moura had similar talks with envoys from 11 Western nations.

Mr. Mbinda said the Reagan administration's decision earlier this month to give financial and material aid to Angolan rebels showed the United States was intensifying "its aggressive politics against Angola" and asked the Communist-ruled countries to help to restrain Washington, the sources said.

He appealed for "moral and material support" to Angola in its fight against UNITA insurgents, who have fought the Luanda government since independence in 1975.

and Afghan government helicopters on villages along the Salang Highway but they had no details of casualties.

The bombing seemed aimed at keeping the guerrillas away from the highway, the main link between the capital Kabul and the Soviet border, they said.

They said several officers of unknown nationality and scores of Soviet and Afghan soldiers were reported either killed or wounded in two days of fighting early this month after the guerrillas ambushed their convoy near the town of Narin in the northern province of Baghlan.

About a dozen tanks and other armoured vehicles were destroyed or abandoned by the troops in the fighting on Feb. 7-8, they said.

The diplomats said security precautions in Kabul were heightened last week to ward off any guerrilla attacks to mark the sixth anniversary on Feb. 21 of the killing of several schoolgirl protesters by Soviet-led troops.

They said the guerrillas were reported to have shot down a Soviet helicopter near Kabul on Friday. They also executed two captured Soviet soldiers after putting them on trial two weeks ago near Salang Pass in the north.

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S. Africa jails white guerrilla for 7 years

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — A young white South African was sentenced to an effective seven years imprisonment Tuesday after admitting he was given military training by nationalist guerrillas fighting to topple white minority rule.

Eric Pelsler, 21, told the Johannesburg supreme court he had been trained by "Umkhonto We Sizwe (spear of the nation), the military wing of the African National Congress (ANC).

He was jailed for nine years, three of which were suspended, on a charge of treason and for two years, of which one was suspended, for being in possession of banned literature.

There was no immediate reaction from anti-apartheid organisations to the sentence, which was lenient compared with some sentences meted out to black members of the ANC.

Treason can carry the death penalty but the prosecution did not ask for it.

The judge said he had taken Pelsler's youth into consideration in passing sentence.

This was a rare case of a white joining the predominantly black ANC. Pelsler left South Africa for Botswana in 1984 to evade compulsory military service.

The court heard that he was given a two-and-a-half month training course by the ANC in Angola in 1985. He was seized during a raid on a Johannesburg flat where he was found in possession of an AK-47 assault rifle and two hand grenades.

Among severe sentences passed on black members of the ANC is the life term handed down to Nelson Mandela, the first commander-in-chief of Umkhonto, who is still behind bars after his conviction in 1964 on charges of sabotage and plotting the violent overthrow of the government.

Last October Pretoria ignored pleas for clemency and hanged black poet Benjamin Moliso, an ANC member found guilty of murdering a security policeman.

The execution caused unprecedented protests by thousands of black protesters in the heart of Johannesburg at the height of racial unrest, in which more than 1,130 people have died in the past two years.

The ANC has recently intensified its attacks inside South Africa. A dozen civilians were killed in sabotage attacks late last year, mainly in mine explosions near the Zimbabwe border.

Meanwhile, two blacks were reported killed Monday night in scattered unrest across South Africa, and 40 high school students were detained after police raided a meeting near Cape Town.

Residents of Kagiso, 40 kilometres from Johannesburg, said student Steven Matsogo, 22, was killed and 30 others were injured when police made a baton charge against residents who had met to discuss township issues.

Meetings organised by the township's Youth Congress and Residents' Committee in three churches, hundreds of residents agreed to lift a consumer boycott until April 7, but to maintain a bus boycott. Residents are demanding the removal of soldiers from black communities, an end to the state of emergency in 23 districts around the country, improvements in township roads and bus services and the release of imprisoned black political leaders.

Police headquarters in Pretoria said a woman was burned to death when arsonists set her house on fire in KwaZakhele, near Port Elizabeth in Cape province.

In Bonteheuwel, a mixed-race community near Cape Town, police raided a student meeting on high school issues, seized what police described as subversive pamphlets and held 32 boys and 8 girls under emergency regulations. The meeting took place in rooms of the Advice Office Forum, an organisation linked to the United Democratic Front, the largest multi-racial anti-apartheid alliance in the country.

after almost nine years of martial law, Mr. Bush brushed aside opposition complaints of human rights violation by his regime.

Toasting Mr. Marcos, Mr. Bush said warmly: "We love your adherence to democratic principles and democratic processes."

"We stand with you, sir... we will not leave you in isolation... it would be turning our backs on history if we did."

Mr. Bush's remarks quickly aroused controversy. Successive U.S. governments — those of Presidents Nixon, Ford and Carter — had been avoiding open support for Mr. Marcos since he took one-man control by imposing martial law in 1972.

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"The blunder is in embracing Marcos so openly we have limited our options for dealing with alternatives to Marcos once he leaves office. Our new policy... may result in accelerating Marcos' downfall rather than restraining it," he said.

Two former Philippines senators, Benigno Aquino and Raul Manglapus, immediately cabled Mr. Bush charging that "every word of praise for the Marcos dictatorship... deepens the cynicism of the Filipino people and drives more of our countrymen to the arms of the radical left."

Benigno Aquino, 50, regarded as the strongest rival to Mr. Marcos, was shot dead on Aug. 21, 1983, when he arrived at Manila airport after three years exile in the United States. The Philippines has been in turmoil ever since.

Many said they had been at the palace since Monday night after hearing Mr. Marcos, in a television interview, invite them to attend.

After the ceremony inside the palace, Mr. Marcos addressed them from a palace balcony. Only a few of them could get close but all of them cheered, especially when he declared: "My resignation is impossible."

The mood at times was faintly hostile towards the few foreign reporters and photographers inside the grounds.

One man singled out a British reporter and berated him because "your newspapers say we Filipinos eat dogs. We don't need that kind of thing said about us." Later he apologised.

"It was that crush at the gate getting in. It made me upset," he said. "But I do believe in President Marcos. I do believe he is the best one for the Philippines."

Mr. Marcos was seen in the crowd, waving paper Philippine flags distributed from a truck in the palace grounds.

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Maori man bares buttocks at queen

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — A Maori man bared his buttocks at a motorcade carrying Queen Elizabeth II on Tuesday, but police said she didn't notice.

The baring of buttocks is considered a gross form of insult among Maoris. The protester flashed his tattooed buttocks, then performed a brief dance before he was arrested and charged with offensive behaviour. The man, identified by police as Dun Mhaka, staged a similar protest when the prince and princess of Wales were in New Zealand three years ago.

Mhaka said recently that hundreds of Maoris would perform the same ritual during the queen's week-long visit as a protest against the British throne. Maori chiefs ceded sovereignty to the British in the treaty of Waitangi in 1840.

112-year old woman becomes oldest person

LONDON (R) — A British woman of 112 has become the oldest person in the world after a Japanese man aged 120 died, a spokesman for the Guinness Book of Records has said. The book listed Anna Eliza Williams as the second oldest when it got a telex saying Shigechiro Izumi died of pneumonia last Friday on the island of Tokunoshima. "Of course there are many claimants," but Anna Williams is the only one to be proven authentic," said Alex Reid, who helps compile the book.

Williams, a former domestic servant now blind and frail, could not come to the telephone at the old people's home in Swansea, Wales, where she lives, but her daughter Constance Harvey, 78, said she spent her days in an armchair chatting with visitors. Born in the West England country of Wiltshire on June 2, 1873, into a Welsh family of eight children, Williams, a widow for the past 30 years, has two grandchildren in their 50s and three great-grandchildren. Williams' younger sister lived to the age of 101. Asked how she explained this longevity, Harvey said: "When they were children they didn't have a lot of these fancy foods. It was wholesome, home grown. And she's never been one to take pills."

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Indonesia seeks death penalty for 2 extremists

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesian prosecutors have demanded the death sentence for two Muslim students charged with bombing a Roman Catholic Church, a Buddhist temple and a bus, the official Antara News Agency said Tuesday.

Antara quoted the prosecutors as telling a court in the East Java city of Malang that Achmad Muladawila, 24, and Abdul Kadir Ali Habsyi, 27, wanted to start an Islamic Revolution.

Muladawila and Habsyi planned to attack a resort beach in predominantly Hindu Bali last March but the bombs exploded on a bus before the pair reached the island and killed seven passengers, the court was told.

The two men also planted bombs at a church in Malang on Christmas Eve, 1984, and at the ancient Borobudur Buddhist temple in Central Java the following month, the prosecutors said. There were no casualties in those attacks.

Islam is the predominant religion among Indonesia's 168 million people but President Suharto has vowed that he will never allow the creation of an Islamic state.

The prosecutors said earlier that a man who masterminded the three attacks was now in Iran. The Iranian embassy denied that Tehran had given sanctuary to anyone connected with the bombings.

They said the guerrillas were reported to have shot down a Soviet helicopter near Kabul on Friday. They also executed two captured Soviet soldiers after putting them on trial two weeks ago near Salang Pass in the north.

The diplomats reported continued regular bombing by Soviet

and Afghan government helicopters on villages along the Salang Highway but they had no details of casualties.

The bombing seemed aimed at keeping the guerrillas away from the highway, the main link between the capital Kabul and the Soviet border, they said.

They said several officers of unknown nationality and scores of Soviet and Afghan soldiers were reported either killed or wounded in two days of fighting early this month after the guerrillas ambushed their convoy near the town of Narin in the northern province of Baghlan.

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